

Proposed Resource Management Plan

ORV use will be limited to designated or existing roads and trails at all cultural sites.

All cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination, or listed on the National Register will be protected from deterioration and from adverse impacts which may result from transfer from federal ownership.

Mineral, Energy, and Geologic Resources

BLM will manage geological, energy, and minerals resources on the public lands. Geological resources will be managed so that significant scientific, recreational, ecological and educational values will be maintained or enhanced. Generally, the public lands are available for mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws.

Locatable Minerals (Gold, Silver, Lead, etc.)

Areas within the resource area will be available for exploration and development of locatable minerals except where specifically restricted or excluded. Mineral activities will be conducted in accordance with 43 CFR 3802, 3809 or 3814 as appropriate.

Location of mining claims in accordance with the State and Federal mining laws and regulations is nondiscretionary. The public lands are available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of Interior.

Saleable Minerals (Sand and Gravel)

Mineral material sales are discretionary actions. All mineral disposals will be made in accordance with 43 CFR 3600. The general policy shall be to promote the use of existing sites. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicants needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Exploration for new sites will be the responsibility of the applicant. Exploration will be allowed where appropriate under a letter of authorization from the Area Manager. Sale approval will be subject to environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources.

Leaseable Minerals (Oil and Gas)

Energy and mineral leasing are discretionary actions. Approval of an application for lease is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources. Generally, the public lands may be considered for energy and minerals leasing.

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Notice of Staking (NOS) - Follow operating order #1 and 43 CFR 3160.

Geophysical Operations - Notices of Intent to conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations will be processed within 15 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with stipulations on Applications for Permits to drill, Notices of Staking, and Notices for Geophysical Operations.

Leaseable Mineral (Geothermal)

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations to protect resource values in accordance with 43 CFR 3204 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Exploration Operations - A notice of intent and permit to conduct exploration operations (geothermal resources) will be processed within 30 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3209 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with approved notices.

Geologic

Unique geologic features of the district will be protected and interpreted for the public.

Wilderness (Box Creek WSA)

Preliminary Recommendations to Congress (Section 202 of FLPMA)

Only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. BLM recommends areas suitable for preservation as wilderness. Those recommendations are preliminary and are subject to the findings of mineral surveys and final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior and the President before being submitted to Congress. Until Congress acts on the President's suitability recommendations, BLM will manage wilderness study areas in accordance with the Interim Wilderness Management Policy (IMP).

Areas Designated Wilderness

Areas designated as wilderness by Congress will be managed in accordance with BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Specific management provisions will be formulated in a wilderness management plan developed for each area following designation.

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Areas Not Designated Wilderness

Areas determined to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation will be managed for other purposes. The tentative management scheme developed during the planning process will be given final consideration following release of the Box Creek WSA from further wilderness consideration.

Recreation

Recreation Management

BLM will manage recreation on the public lands. A variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities will be considered including obtaining access through easements and acquisitions to quality resources on BLM lands. Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

The Boise District will provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands. Recreation facilities are provided to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety and to protect recreation resources.

Potential National Wild and Scenic Rivers

Federal land management agencies are responsible for evaluating certain rivers to determine suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. For those rivers determined to be suitable, the agencies will provide protection by preparing recommendations to have rivers studied and by taking immediate action to protect them. Prior to the time suitability recommendations have been acted upon by Congress, the rivers will be treated as though they were components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Public lands along the Payette River (North and South Forks) will be managed accordingly by the District until Congress acts.

Motorized Recreation Vehicle Access and Use

Through the planning process, public lands will be placed in one of three categories for purposes of controlling motorized vehicle access: open, limited, and closed. Guidelines for these categories are as follows:

Open - Motorized vehicles may travel anywhere.

Limited - Motorized vehicles are permitted, subject to specified conditions such as seasonal limitations, speed limits, and designated routes of travel as developed during subsequent activity planning.

Closed - Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Paleontologic Resources

Paleontologic resources will be managed to protect and maintain or enhance sites or areas for their scientific and educational values.

This will include allowing vertebrate paleontologic specimen collecting through a permit procedure and reviewing all EA's and CER's to determine if actions impact paleontologic resources. A bibliographic research will be made to help in determining the importance of the various paleontologic sites within the resource area.

Visual Resource Management

The visual or scenic values of the public lands will be considered whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape will be guided by the criteria established for the four Visual Resource Management Classes as outlined in BLM 8400. VRM Classes will be managed as shown on Map 3-8.

Forest Management

The public lands in the district containing commercial timber or other forest products such as firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees will be considered for harvest except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Some areas may also be subject to special restrictions to protect resources. Harvesting methods utilizing clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less and will be blended into the surrounding landscape.

Management guidelines for wildlife will be as follows:

No timber harvest access will be allowed prior to July 1 in elk calving areas.

All roads will be rehabilitated by outsloping, waterbarring, or seeding.

Roads will be closed in crucial wildlife areas.

Undergrowth will be left as intact as possible.

Stringers of trees of sufficient size and thickness to be used as sight barriers between cutting areas will be determined on a site specific basis.

The need to eliminate livestock grazing on cut areas for up to 3 years to allow shrub enhancement will be determined on a site specific basis.

Adequate hiding and thermal cover along major roads will be provided.

Maintain snag trees in timbered areas to the greatest extent practical to provide habitat for cavity nesting birds and other snag dependent species.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) are established through the planning process as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for "... areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to

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important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." Management will be tailored to the specific needs of each ACEC.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will coordinate its review of detailed management plans (activity) and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed, as necessary, to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Weeds (Control of Noxious)

BLM districts will work with respective County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records. BLM will control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose.

Noxious weed control will be conducted in accordance with integrated weed management guidelines and design features identified in the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Final Environmental Impact Statement of December, 1985. The Idaho State Director issued a Record of Decision on April 7, 1986 for this program.

Public Utilities

Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Project approval will be subject to preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. BLM will work closely with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, other state and federal agencies, local governments, utility companies, and other interested parties to determine appropriate locations and environmental safeguards for public utilities involving public lands.

Economic and Social Considerations

BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the specific management action involved.

Detailed Management (Activity) Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the resource area. More detailed management plans, called activity plans, will be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate

specific management practices, improvements, allocations, and other information for a particular site or area. They will be prepared for most major BLM programs such as range (allotment management plans), recreation (special recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), and cultural resources (cultural resource management plans). Where two or more activities have activity plan needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation, and public involvement are integral parts in the formulation of activity plans.

Environmental Reviews

The NEPA process will be followed on all projects prior to approval. Site-specific analysis will allow some projects to be considered under provisions of the categorical exclusion review process and others to be considered under the environmental assessment process. Environmental impact statements will be prepared on those actions which may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Plan Maintenance

Resource management plans and supporting components shall be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. Such maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Maintenance shall not result in expansion in the scope of resource uses or restrictions, or change the terms, conditions, or decisions of the approved plan. Maintenance is not considered a plan amendment and does not require formal public involvement and interagency coordination or the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Plan Amendments

A resource management plan may be changed through amendment. An amendment shall be initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved plan. An amendment shall be made through an environmental assessment of the proposed change, or an environmental impact statement if necessary, public involvement, interagency coordination and consistency determination and any other data or analysis that may be appropriate. In all cases, the effect of the amendment on the plan shall be evaluated.

Examples of actions which would require an amendment include disposal of land not identified for transfer, granting of a right-of-way for a highway/transportation route, change in management objectives for an area or resource, or changes in special designations. Additional range improvement projects (fences, pipelines, reservoirs, spring developments) not originally identified in a plan, may be approved through the NEPA process without a plan amendment if the project is in conformance with the management objectives of the multiple use area and is not in conflict with the management guidelines and objectives of other resource activities.

SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Land Transfer and Utility ROWs

Cadastral survey services may be needed to locate public land boundaries and appraisal reports would be needed to estimate value of lands offered for sale and exchange. Legal services to review legal real estate documents would also be needed. Engineering support would be needed to review design specifications (analysis) on utility ROW proposals (power lines, gas lines, phone lines, roads, etc.) Appraisal support for valuation of ROWs would be needed.

Soil, Water, and Air

Fire management support would be needed to reduce damage by wild fire and engineering services (operations) would be needed for fire rehabilitation (reseeding to reduce soil erosion).

Livestock and Wild Horse Management

Engineering and fire management support would be needed for project layout, design, and implementation. Coordination with BLM wild horse distribution centers would be necessary prior to roundup.

Wildlife (Terrestrial and Aquatic)

Fire management support would be required to protect crucial habitats and to control prescribed burning projects. Idaho Department of Fish and Game coordination would be needed for all prescribed burn projects. Engineering and operations support for gap fencing, aquatic habitat structures and riparian area improvement projects would also be needed.

Fire Management

Support from Boise Interagency Fire Center and other fire fighting units for presuppression and suppression planning and equipment may be required.

Minerals (Energy and Nonenergy)

Cadastral services to locate public land boundaries and cultural and historical clearances would be needed.

Recreation

Fire management support would be needed for managing natural fire to protect significant resources. Engineering services support would be needed for the design and development of proposed facilities that would be identified from RAMPs. Cartographic services for information brochures and ORV plan maps would be needed.