

Table 1  
Wildlife Habitat Occupancy Restrictions  
(for Oil, Gas and Geophysical Exploration and Development  
and all major construction -see also Map 9)

Species	No Occupancy Time Periods	Area
<u>Game Species</u>		
<u>Mule Deer</u>		
Crucial <sup>1</sup> / <sub> Winter Range</sub>	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
<u>Antelope</u>		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Crucial Fawning Range	5/1 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
<u>Elk</u>		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
<u>Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse</u>		
Winter Range	12/1 - 2/15	Entire Habitat Area
Breeding Grounds	2/15 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
Nesting/Brood Rearing	4/15 - 6/30	2 miles radius from lek
<u>Sensitive Species</u>		
Riparian Associated (River Otter, Mountain Quail)	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of riparian
Red-Band Trout/White Sturgeon	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of stream
Long-billed Curlew Nesting Areas	3/15 - 6/30	
Ferruginous Hawk and Swainson Hawk Nests	3/15 - 6/30	3/4 mile radius from nest
Osprey Nests	4/15 - 8/31	3/4 mile radius from nest
Western Burrowing Owl Nests	3/15 - 6/30	1/4 mile radius from nest
<u>Endangered Species</u>		
Bald Eagle/Peregrine Winter Nesting	12/1 - 3/31 Year Long	Within 1 mile of of nest
<u>Species of Concern</u>		
Golden Eagle Nest	2/1 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Prairie Falcon Nest	3/15 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Heron Rookeries	Year Long	Within 1/2 mile of rookery
<u>Special Habitats</u>		
Reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, riparian	Year Long	Within 500 ft.

<sup>1</sup>/ Those areas where big game animals have demonstrated a definite pattern of use each year or an area where animals tend to concentrate in significant numbers (from Interagency Guidelines for Big Game Range Investigation-Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service).

## Proposed Resource Management Plan

Suppression of wildfire in crucial wildlife habitats will have a high priority. Fire rehabilitation seedings in crucial wildlife habitats will be multispecies, incorporating species to restore wildlife habitat values.

Prescribed burning will be designed to improve or at least not damage wildlife habitat.

Range management practices and developments will be designed or modified to maintain or improve crucial wildlife habitats. Livestock grazing management will incorporate the needs of key plant species important to wildlife.

All new rangeland fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage in accordance with district fence standards for deer and pronghorn antelope. Any existing fences obstructing wildlife movements will be brought into conformance with the adopted standards.

Wildlife escape devices will be installed on any water tanks or troughs that present a hazard to wildlife.

The construction of new roads into crucial wildlife habitats will be avoided. Permanent or seasonal road closures may be instituted where problems exist or are expected.

Areas disturbed during construction activities will be rehabilitated. Seedings will incorporate a mixture of plants adaptable to the site and beneficial to wildlife.

### Elk

The "Elk-Timber Relationship of West Central Idaho" will be used to guide evaluation for proposed logging activities in elk habitat.

On crucial elk winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

### Mule Deer Habitat

Where applicable, "Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines" contained in Technical Note T/N 336 (USDI, BLM 1979) will be followed. These include:

- In range rehabilitation or manipulation projects, maintain a 60/40 ratio of forage area to cover area.
- Try to achieve a mosaic or mottled pattern of cover in prescribed burning and manipulation projects.
- Improve forage condition by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbrush or other palatable shrub species on crucial mule deer winter range that presently has less than 30% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component.

On crucial mule deer ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

#### Pronghorn Antelope

Where applicable, "Habitat Management Guides for the American Pronghorn Antelope" contained in Technical Note 347 (USDI, BLM 1980) will be followed. These include:

- Grazing systems designed with the concept of key plant species, preferred pronghorn forage species for forbs and shrubs will be included as key species.
- Vegetative manipulation projects will include mixtures of grasses, forbs and shrubs.

#### Sage Grouse

Where applicable, "Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range" and "Sage Grouse Management Practices" (Technical Bulletin No. 1) - Western States Sage Grouse Committee, June 1974, and 1982 respectively, will be followed. Also, "Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse" Technical Note (USDI, BLM 1974) will be followed where applicable. These include:

- No sagebrush control work would be allowed on sage grouse nesting and wintering habitat where live sagebrush cover is less than 20%.
- Treatment measures should be applied in irregular patterns using topography and other ecological considerations to minimize adverse effects to the sage grouse resource.
- Where fire is used as a habitat management tool, it should be used in such manner as to result in a mosaic pattern of shrubs and open areas, with openings, optimally from 1 to 10 acres in size.
- Maintain the density of sagebrush canopy coverage at 20-30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in wintering habitats.
- No control of sagebrush would be considered in any area known to have supported important wintering populations of sage grouse in the past 10 years.
- Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects will include a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs that benefit sage grouse.

Improve sage grouse brood rearing habitat where sagebrush canopy cover is greater than 20% by removing sagebrush in small irregular areas and then reseeding.

## Proposed Resource Management Plan

### Birds of Prey

Improve raptor habitat by requiring all new power lines in raptors areas to be constructed to "electrocution proof" specification and that any problem lines now existing be modified to be "electrocution proof."

### Riparian and Aquatic Habitat

Riparian and wetland habitat have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with state and national policy.

Provide a minimum 100 foot riparian buffer zone from the edge of any riparian habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Utilize this zone for the general exclusion of the following activities:

- New road construction that parallels streams - use best management practices when construction cannot be avoided,
- Timber harvest activities,
- Spraying of herbicides and pesticides, and
- Gravel extraction.

Utilize a 500 foot buffer zone from the edge of any riparian habitat, for the total exclusion of the following activities:

- Oil and gas occupancy of an exploration or development, and
- Introduction of chemical toxicants or sediments as a result of construction, agriculture, or mining (tailing deposits, holding ponds, etc.).

Suppression of wildfire in riparian habitats will have a high priority. Riparian areas burned will be rehabilitated through protection and, if necessary, seeded or planted.

Maintain State recommended instream flows for the maintenance and preservation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems. In all cases, allow no proposals that include dewatering of the streambed.

Grazing management practices will be designed and established to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs in the development of new allotment management plans and in the revision of existing allotment management plans. In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion will be utilized. Allow no livestock related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways to occur within the riparian zone of a stream drainage system.

Avoid construction activities which remove or destroy riparian vegetation and instream fish cover.

Design all new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas. Where possible, and if the need exists for wildlife, fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock away from the reservoirs. Wildlife habitat needs will be considered when reservoir site determinations are made.

In all activities including maintenance of roads, and other facilities follow the guidelines outlined in the best management practices manual for management and protection of western stream ecosystems (American Fisheries Society 1982).

In those areas where fishery/riparian values are identified as high priority habitats such as perennial/intermittent streams with high potential, habitats with game species or "species of special concern," areas of high public visibility, unique or previous undisturbed habitats, and those habitats with high manageability potential, all other management practices will be designed to maintain the integrity of or improve those habitats.

### Fire Management

#### Bureau Policy

The present Bureau policy is to aggressively suppress all new fires on or threatening public lands. Whenever multiple fires ignite simultaneously, priorities will be determined by value-at-risk. These values are predetermined by evaluating each resource separately to determine either beneficial or detrimental effects fire has on that resource. Crews are dispatched to fires with the highest values until all crews are utilized. Fires with lower values may have delayed suppression times.

The Bureau cooperates with adjacent landowners to reduce fire hazards. Cooperative efforts may range from consulting with private landowners on hazard reduction plans, to development of cooperative agreements and performance of hazard reduction.

#### Supplemental District Policy

The suppression policy of the Boise District is to extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. When burning conditions and terrain are such that direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from existing natural barriers to establish control points.

Surface disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers, are utilized only when necessary and with management approval. First priority is clearing of existing roads and second priority is construction of new control lines. Surface disturbance will be limited to the absolute minimum in riparian areas.

On areas containing cultural values (designated or suspected sites), identified threatened or sensitive areas, or identified paleontologic sites, no mechanical surface disturbing equipment will be used.

Surface disturbing equipment will be allowed in Wilderness Study Areas only when necessary to prevent loss of human life or property within WSAs or to prevent the spread of fire to areas outside of WSAs where life or property may be threatened. All fire suppression activities will use caution to avoid unnecessary impairment of wilderness suitability values. Fire lines constructed in WSAs will be recontoured, reseeded with appropriate species, and waterbarred if necessary as soon as practicable. Natural firebreaks will be used whenever possible.

## Proposed Resource Management Plan

Full suppression will be used with sufficient force necessary to contain the fire during the first burning period. In the event multiple fires occur, the suppression priority identified below will be used and revised as needed. Suppression priority in the Cascade Resource Area currently is as follows:

1. Boise Front Watershed
2. Commercial timber
3. Crucial wildlife habitat
4. Developed recreation facilities and/or cultural areas
5. Payette River Corridor (South Fork)
6. Four-Mile Wild Horse habitat
7. Riparian habitat

Required actions for suppression are as follows:

- Continue present coordination and exchange of protection with adjacent National Forests and the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association.
- Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce the number of human-caused fires.
- Evaluate burned area for emergency rehabilitation and implement if feasible.
- Continue to work with fire management techniques for fire suppression, and in fire hazards, greenstripping, and fuels manipulations, including prescribed fire.

Wildfires which occur in areas identified for prescribed fire and meet predetermined prescriptions will be allowed to burn as a prescribed fire.

### Rehabilitation, Greenstripping and Reduction Actions/Procedures

Public lands and resources affected by wildfires will be rehabilitated. The multiple use objectives identified in this land use plan will be evaluated for potential accomplishment through fire rehabilitation and greenstripping efforts. Fire rehabilitation and greenstripping efforts will incorporate, to the extent practicable, provisions to help accomplish those objectives as conditions allow. The following actions and procedures will be applied:

1. Those areas having a high frequency of fires and/or having a high potential for fires, or having re-burns with annual grasses (mostly cheatgrass and medusahead wildrye) will utilize irregular buffer strips along roads and other important areas. These buffer strips will contain seed mixtures that are fire resistant and help meet watershed protection, wildlife and riparian objectives. These buffer strips or greenstripping will receive first priority for seeding prior to seeding the rest of the burned area.

2. Prescribed burns (proposed) may be reduced, postponed or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions.
3. All grazing licenses issued that include areas recently burned and/or seeded will include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burn area. Normally two years of rest will be necessary to enable recovery of these areas.
4. A Fire Fuels Break Plan will be developed as part of a fire activity plan after approval of the RMP.
5. The 8100 fund may be used to implement the Fire Fuels Break Plan where range, wildlife or watershed objectives are also met.
6. Seedings will include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

#### Cultural Resources

The Bureau of Land Management is required to identify, evaluate, protect and wisely manage cultural resources on public lands under its jurisdiction and to ensure that Bureau-initiated or Bureau-authorized actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy nonfederal cultural resources. These requirements are mandated by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments, together with 36 CFR 800.

Prior to commencement of any Bureau-initiated or authorized action, which involves surface disturbing activities, sale or transfer from Federal management, the BLM will conduct or cause to be conducted, a Class III (intensive) inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are discovered, the BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area will be protected by adhering to the following methods.

- Redesigning or relocating the project.
- Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement.
- Should the site be determined to be of significant value (eligible for National Register), and/or the above mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project may be abandoned.