Limitations on 61,000 acres of public land in the Curlew Management Area (part of the 65,000 acre Black Canyon Planning Unit) currently in effect would continue with minimal impact on recreational ORV use.

Minerals related surface occupancy in developed and intensively used recreation areas could adversely impact recreation use on 3,785 acres. Surface occupancy could reduce the quality and quantity of vehicle use opportunities on 3,740 acres provided for in 5 intensive ORV use areas. This impact would be slight to moderate depending on the degree of development and surface occupancy. Recreation opportunities on 45 acres of campgrounds, boat launches, and the Hulls Gulch Nature Trail would be substantially reduced in quality or even eliminated by surface occupancy.

A projected increase in big game numbers through improved habitat is expected to increase big game hunting opportunity. Opportunities for non-consumptive uses would also increase.

Granting the Pickles Butte DLE could decrease upland bird hunting opportunities by as much as 40% on the 1,440 acres of public lands in that area.

Construction of 40 miles of timber harvest access roads (2 miles annually for 20 years) would increase recreational access into these areas on those roads that would remain open for timber management purposes.

Identification of special designation areas would cause a slight increase in hiking, sightseeing, and other casual visitor uses.

Visual

More intensive management of the Boise Front SRMA (12,000 acres) could enhance the quality of the visual resource of the area by as much as 10-15%.

Improved riparian habitat on 82 miles of streams would improve the visual resource.

Harvesting approximately 1 MMBF of timber and the resulting access roads may negatively impact the visual resource. Less obtrusive selective cutting would be the primary harvest method, although some clearcuts, not to exceed 40 acres each, may be proposed. All timber sales would be guided by the appropriate VRM class guidelines. Impacts from timber harvest would be minimal.

Transferring 2,680 acres of land from federal ownership could result in impacts on the visual resource. See discussion in Alternative B.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Leasables

Oil and Gas

Approximately 100,000 acres of BLM land within this resource area have been classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Considering a 12

month availability 1,200,000 acre/months of access exist. About 19,000 acres would continue to be affected by crucial deer winter range stipulations (closed 12/1 to 4/30) and 5,000 acres would continue to be closed from 2/15 to 6/30 to protect bird nesting and breeding areas. This would be a total protective closure of 117,500 acre months or approximately 10% of the available access. Since weather and soil conditions normally do not allow off-road activities before 4/15 each year the impact from the stipulations would not be significant.

The no surface occupancy restrictions on recreation sites totaling 45 acres would not be a significant impact.

Based on the lack of any commercial oil or gas wells in Idaho, the 35 dry holes in the resource area, the low potential of the area, and the above analysis, the overall impacts of continued oil or gas leasing and development would be insignificant.

Geothermal

Approximately 94% of the resource area would remain open for leasing under this alternative. The areas closed to geothermal leasing would be the existing 31,177 acres of withdrawn lands. Impacts from time stipulations would not be significant because the periods of closure generally match the period that has poor weather and soil conditions which limit access.

Although various lands within the resource area have been classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources, the only KGRA within the area has been declassified and there are no geothermal leases within the whole resource area.

Based on the lack of any commercial geothermal electric projects in Idaho, the lack of any known large reservoirs in the area, the declining interest in geothermal resources and the above analysis, the overall impacts on the availability of geothermal leases and development would be insignificant.

Locatables

The resource area would have 94% of its lands open to mining activity. Those areas closed to mining would be the existing withdrawals of 31,177 acres plus an additional 8 acres for cultural site protection.

A total of 2,200 acres of land are proposed for transfer from federal ownership under this alternative. No lands having valid mining claims or mineral potential would be transferred from federal ownership unless they are patented under the mining laws, the mineral estate is paid for, or lands of equal overall values are obtained. The impact from land transfer on the availability of lands for mineral location and development would, therefore, be considered insignificant.

An analysis of the location of and activity on the existing mining claims and areas of mineral interest compared to an analysis of the actions proposed under this alternative indicates that there would not be any significant impacts on the availability of locatable minerals.

Salables

Mineral Materials

Mineral material needs within the resource area have not been very high except in the Weiser area. No increase in need or decrease in overall availability would result from the actions under this alternative. Some existing pits will, however, be depleted within the timespan of this plan.

The impacts from this alternative on mineral material resources would be insignificant.

FOREST RESOURCES

Timber

There are a total of 31,895 acres of commercial forest land. Approximately 16% or 5,139 acres have been determined through the Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC) to be incapable of sustained long-term timber production. Included in those acres are lands that are classified as fragile or lands which cannot be reforested adequately. Seventy acres would continue to be used for a seed orchard. This leaves 26,686 acres of suitable commercial forest land, which is capable of sustaining long-term timber production, to be used for timber management and harvest. These 26,686 acres would be selectively cut, over an area of 100-400 acres to yield approximately one million board feet (1 MMBF) of timber annually. This would require construction of 2 miles of roads per year to achieve the annual cut. Roads not needed for timber management would be closed following harvest.

The timber yield over the next 20 years would be 20 MM Bdft.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire occurrence of 40 wildfires per year with a size of about 221 acres each for a total of 8,814 acres per year would be about average for this alternative. The total cost for full suppression in the resource area would be approximately $109,300 per year. There would be a gradual reduction in the annual acreages of wildfires burned, because of the effects of fuel breaks, and because of rehabilitation and greenstripping effects, including reseeding of fire resistant species, which would retard or reduce the larger fires. Refer to Resource Management Guidelines for Fire.

ECONOMICS

Crop Agriculture

With this alternative there would be 560 acres of agricultural development. Based on past experiences, it is assumed that this development would occur in a gradual manner over 10 years. The BLM's Agricultural Development Economic Computer model was used to estimate sales from crop production with this alternative. A crop rotation of Alfalfa establishment - 1%, Alfalfa - 5%, Barley - 17%, Winter Wheat - 17%, Potatoes - 22%, Sugar Beets - 17%, and Dry Edible Beans - 21% was used in this analysis. This

resulted in an average per acre sales of $969 (see the appendix for a complete description of the process used to arrive at this amount). This means that the total annual crop sales from 560 acres would be $542,600.

Utilizing the earnings to gross output ratio for crops, this level of annual sales would generate direct earnings of $207,800. This would represent 0.2% of the RMP area farm earnings. The total earnings that would be generated, including interindustry interactions and household spending (the multiplier effect) would be $529,700. This would be 0.02% of the total RMP area 1983 earnings. See the appendix for a description of how these calculations were made.

Employment gains were estimated by comparing the 1983 farm earnings with the 1983 wage and salary employment to arrive at a earnings per job figure. The earnings per job in the farm sector of the economy would be $28,000. This is inflated to some degree due to the lack of data on the number of farm proprietors. The direct earnings would lead to a gain in farm employment of 7 jobs. This would be 0.2% of the 1983 farm wage and salary employment. The total (all industries) earnings per job figure is $19,000. Again, this is somewhat inflated due to the non-inclusion of data on proprietors. The total earnings gain would lead to an increase of 24 jobs. This would be 0.02% of the RMP area 1983 wage and salary employment.

Livestock

The 5-year and 20-year livestock forage level would be 66,014 AUMs. This would support 5,501 animal units which would generate earnings of $2.7 million. This would be 11% of the total permittee earnings, 6% of the RMP area meat animal earnings, and 3% of total farm earnings. The total earnings (including the multiplier effect) would be $7.2 million. This would be 0.3% of total RMP area 1983 earnings.

Based on farm earnings per job of $28,000 the direct earnings would generate 96 jobs. This would be 2.8% of the 1983 farm wage and salary employment. The total earnings would generated 333 jobs. This would be 0.3% of the RMP area 1983 wage and salary employment.

This stocking level represents a capital value of between $3.7 and $16.5 million.

Recreation

The current level of recreation use (622,000 activity occasions) leads to expenditures of $7.2 million. Utilizing the earnings to gross output ratio for retail trade this would convert to earnings of $2.8 million. This would be 1.1% of the RMP area 1983 retail trade earnings. By the year 2000 the number of activity occasions would be up to 1,034,000 generating expenditures of $11.9 million. This would be earnings of $4.7 million or 1.8% of retail trade earnings.

Initially total earnings (including the multiplier effect) would be $6.4 million or 0.3% of the total RMP area 1983 earnings. By the year 2000 total earnings would be $10.6 million. This would be 0.5% of the total RMP area 1983 earnings.

Employment gains were estimated by comparing the 1983 retail trade earnings with the 1983 retain trade wage and salary employment to arrive at a earnings per job figure. The earnings per job in the retail trade sector of the local economy would be $12,000. This is inflated to some degree due to the lack of data on the number of retail trade proprietors. Initially the direct employment resulting from recreation activity would be 235 jobs. This would be 1.1% of the 1983 retail trade wage and salary employment. By the year 2000 the direct employment would be 392 jobs or 1.8% of the 1983 retail trade wage and salary employment.

Initially, the total employment (including the multiplier effect) would be 425 jobs or 0.4% of the RMP area, total wage and salary employment. By the year 2000 total recreation-related employment would be 884 jobs. This would be 0.7% of the 1983 wage and salary employment in the RMP area.

Lumber and Wood Products

Approximately 1.0 million board feet of wood products would be harvested annually with this alternative. This would generate earnings of $215,000. This would be 0.08% of the RMP area durable manufacturing 1983 earnings. The total earnings (including the multiplier effect) would be $515,000. This would be 0.02% of the total RMP 1983 earnings.

The harvest level would lead to 10 jobs (Youngblood 1983). This would be 0.06% of the 1983 manufacturing wage and salary employment. Total employment (including the multiplier effect) would be 26. This would be 0.02% of the total 1983 RMP area wage and salary employment.

Management Costs

Range and wildlife improvements associated with this alternative would cost approximately $442,000.

Summary

This alternative would have little impact on the local economy. Total crop agriculture earnings and employment would increase by $529,700 and 24 jobs. These are both less than one-tenth of one percent of the 1983 RMP area earnings and employment. Earnings and employment in the livestock industry would be unchanged from the existing situation. The capital value of AUMs would be reduced by $0.4 to $1.5 million. There would be no change in the recreation-related earnings and employment. There would be no change from the existing situation in lumber and wood products earnings and employment. Project costs needed to implement this alternative would be $442,000.