livestock grazing pressure on 14 miles of riparian habitat is eliminated. Livestock grazing strategies that are incorporated into AMPs to promote the vigor of woody streamside vegetation would help maintain existing good riparian habitat and would be expected to improve existing poor and fair condition riparian habitat. A corresponding increase in redband trout populations in perennial streams within these AMP areas would likely occur.

Impacts on redband trout populations over the long term due to timber harvest activities and ORV use would likely be slight. Resource Management Guidelines would minimize soil disturbance and sedimentation in streams. Flushing streamflows would likely be adequate to prevent fine sediment accumulation in spawning gravels.

Warmwater and coldwater gamefish species confined to reservoir habitats would not be impacted by management actions in this alternative.

Wildlife

Elk

Elk habitat has been analyzed in two categories: fall/winter habitat and crucial winter habitat. Crucial habitat are areas utilized in severe conditions and are the most important to herd survival. Under current management practices, a slight increase in the poor condition class would be expected over 20 years. This would occur due to invasion of medusahead wildrye following wildfire and over-utilization of the range by livestock.

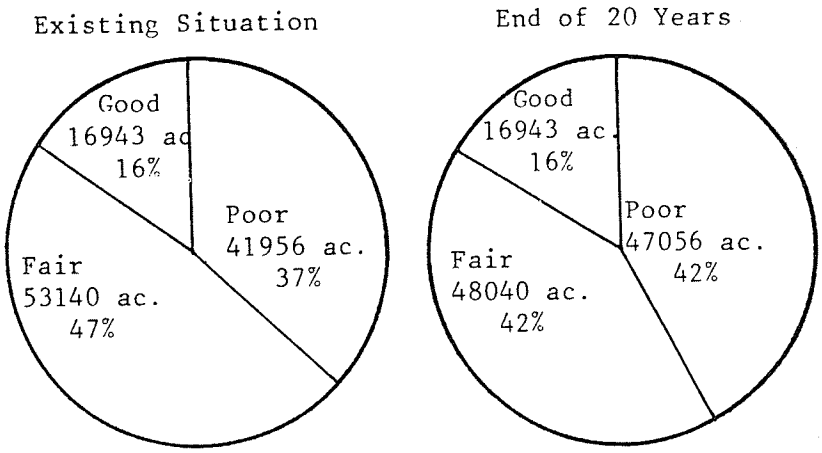
Livestock grazing at proposed levels of 66,655 AUMs would cause some loss of cover and forage. The most severely impacted would be winter habitat which is grazed in the fall.

Commercial timber harvest is proposed on up to 8,000 acres of BLM lands over 20 years. Of these acres, approximately 7,180 acres would be located on deer and elk winter ranges. Approximately 2,338 acres would be in elk fall/winter ranges and 3,657 acres in crucial areas of the winter range. A selective cut program would be used for timber harvest. Selective cutting could be beneficial to elk and deer habitat. Increased sunlight penetration in logged areas increases production of palatable forage. Elk use may be enhanced through selective cutting in certain forested habitat types. Minimal impacts are expected in elk crucial winter habitat areas because of selective cutting and other timber management practices.

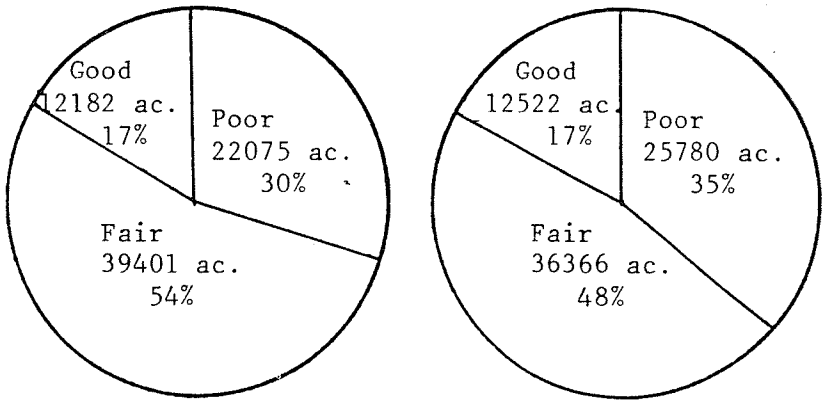
Under current management habitat condition would slowly decline over 20 years. It is estimated that the habitat would only be able to support 1,093 elk which is a 5% decrease over present populations. This would not meet the population goal of a 20% increase over 20 years set for the habitat by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The acreages and percentages of existing and 20-year projected habitat conditions are shown below.

Elk Fall/Winter



Elk Crucial Winter



Mule Deer

As with elk habitat, the most important mule deer habitat has been analyzed in two categories: fall/winter habitat and crucial winter habitat. Under present management practices, an estimated 5% of the acres now in fair condition would be degraded to a poor condition class.

The present stocking levels of 66,655 AUMs would cause loss of forage and cover on mule deer winter ranges. With no change in grazing practices crucial ranges such as the Four-Mile Creek and Willow Creek drainage would continue to be in poor condition. The degradation of the habitat would mainly be caused by the invasion of medusahead wildrye in severely over-utilized areas and burned areas.

Riparian zones which are important habitat both in winter and summer would continue to be degraded in some areas by livestock use. The 30 miles of fencing and 28 miles of stream planting would improve fawning habitat in summer and thermal cover in winter.

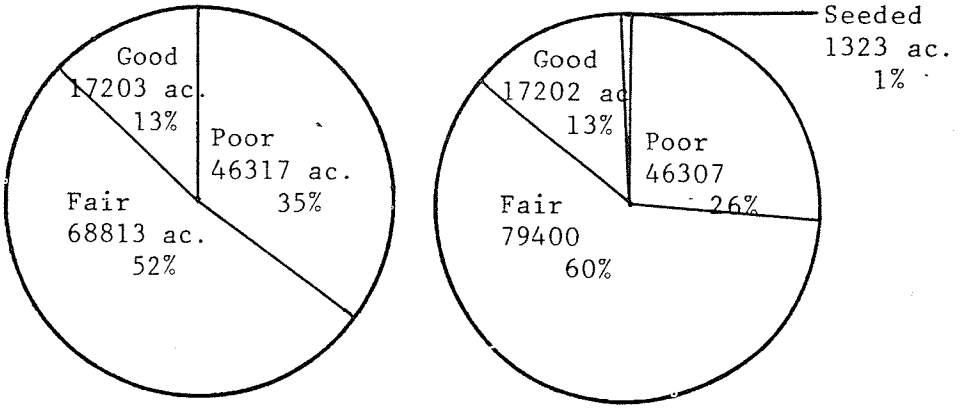
Approximately 7,180 acres of the proposed timber sale areas would be in elk and mule deer winter range. Approximately 108 acres would be in mule

deer fall/winter ranges and 1,091 would be in crucial areas where deer concentrate during severe weather conditions. In most cases, deer and elk crucial winter ranges overlap. Selective cutting and other forest management practices should minimize the impacts on mule deer winter habitat and crucial winter habitat. Mule deer use on an area may increase due to increased shrub growth in cut areas.

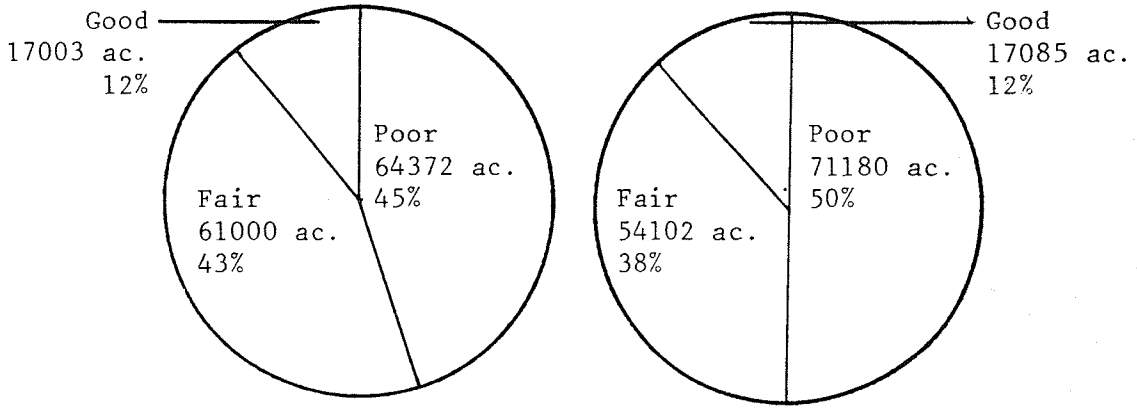
Under current management, habitat condition would slowly decline over the next 20 years. It is estimated that the habitat would only be able to support 6,584 mule deer which is a 5% decrease over present populations. This would not meet population goals of a 30% increase over 20 years set for the habitat by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The acreages and percentages of existing and 20-year projected habitat conditions are shown below.

Mule Deer Fall/Winter



Mule Deer Crucial Winter

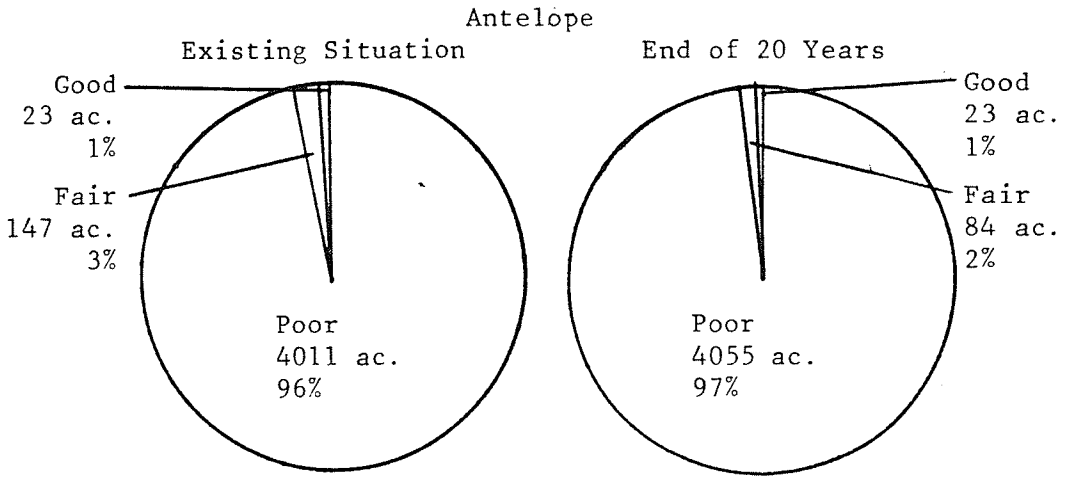


Antelope

Crucial antelope winter habitat lies between the Little Willow Creek and Big Willow Creek drainages. Currently, 96% of this winter range is in poor condition. Habitat condition under current management practices is expected to decrease slightly over the next 20 years. This can be attributed to livestock grazing and continued infestation of medusahead wildrye. Poor range condition and severe climatic conditions could severely inhibit population growth of this herd.

Current management would not meet the population goal of 150 animals set for the area by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

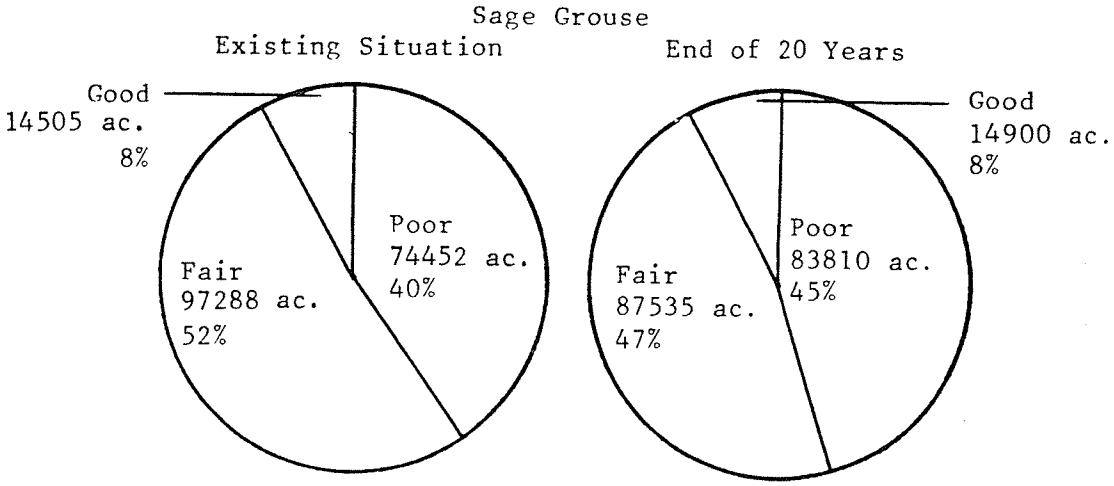
The acreages and percentages of existing and 20-year projected habitat conditions are shown below.



Sage Grouse

Current grazing practices and wildfire would continue to degrade sage grouse habitat. The trend seems to indicate that habitat condition would continue to decline. The decline would be caused by invasion of medusahead wildrye and cheatgrass and loss of sagebrush cover.

The acreages and percentages of existing and projected 20-year habitat conditions are shown below.

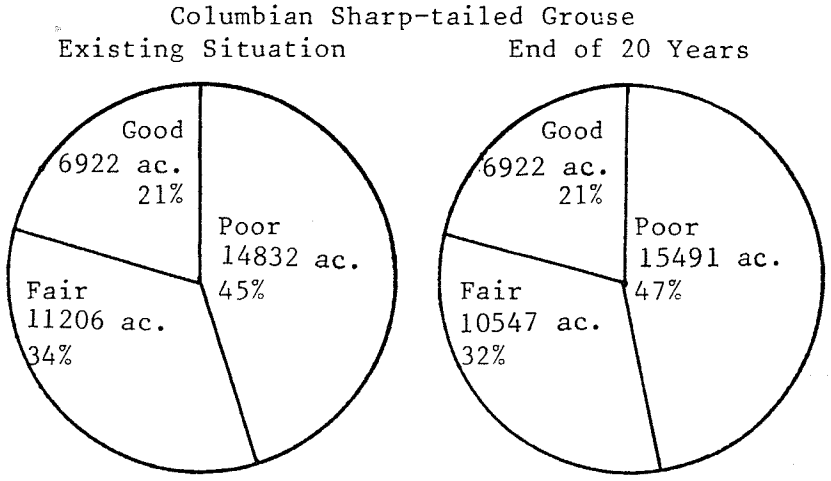


Sensitive Animal Species

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

The continuation of current grazing practices would slightly increase the poor condition class of sharp-tail habitat. Under present management the habitat condition is expected to continue to decline. As loss of crucial habitat continues, populations will also decline.

The acreage and percentages of existing and 20-year projected habitat conditions are shown below.



Long-billed Curlew

A 61,000 acre long-billed curlew habitat area is located in the Black Canyon Planning Unit. Special management guidelines for the area include retention of the area in federal ownership, ORV restrictions, and maintenance of a short grass ecosystem. Curlew utilize areas that are in the poorest condition class. This alternative would not effect any curlew habitat.

Birds of Prey

This alternative would not affect raptor habitat in the Birds of Prey area.

Livestock

The stocking level of 66,424 AUMs is the 5-year average use. This would be adjusted downward as the proposed land transfers occur.

Transfer of 2,680 acres of federal range would result in a loss of approximately 248 AUMs (Appendix F). Three allotments would be adversely affected by sales, exchanges, and DLE's.

Special designation areas would further reduce livestock grazing on 915 acres of federal range with an additional 162 AUMs of forage lost.

Wild Horses

Wild horse herds will be maintained at current levels (Four Mile herd, ten horses/120 AUMs; West Crane herd, twelve horses/144 AUMs).

LANDS AND REALTY RESOURCES

Lands

Land transfer would consist of 243 acres for sale, 1,397 acres for sale or exchange, and 560 acres for Desert Land Entry for a total of 2,200 acres.

Of the lands identified for sale, 80 acres would be a sanitary landfill for Ada County and 160 acres already under R&PP lease to the Parma Rod and Gun Club would be patented. The remaining three acres are scattered occupancy and agricultural trespass parcels that have been surveyed and lotted. Transfer of land by sale would generate approximately $21,600 based on current appraisal for the 80 acres to be sold to Ada County, estimates of the value of the small parcels that total 3 acres, and the 160 acres for the Parma Rod and Gun Club.

The lands proposed for transfer by sale or exchange are generally small isolated parcels that appear to meet the disposal criteria in Section 203(a)(1) of FLPMA. Their disposal would reduce problem management areas and/or consolidate land ownership patterns, thereby improving management and reducing management costs. The larger parcels would be examined for exchange possibilities before sale is considered, although any parcel would be available for exchange.

Land transfer for agricultural use (Desert Land Entry) would result in a few additional trespass cases, but because of the limited number of acres to be transferred under this category, it would not be a significant increase. The average administrative cost for a trespass case is $1,250, resulting in increased costs of approximately $3,750 on an estimated three trespass cases.

Rights-of-Ways

Overhead, surface and/or subsurface rights-of-way would be restricted on 4,333 acres of public land due to conflicts with significant cultural or recreation sites, and a portion of the Payette River Special Recreation Management Area (see respective Tables in Chapter 2). The areas precluded or restricted are generally small acreages and there would be few conflicts with major utility rights-of-way since rights-of-way could be rerouted slightly to avoid these areas. Hydroelectric development would be precluded on 14 miles of the Payette River within the Special Recreation Management Area.

Withdrawals

All lands presently withdrawn for livestock driveways (approximately 63,000 acres) would remain in that status or be continued if due to expire within the term of this plan. There is one C&MU classification in the resource area encompassing 37.31 acres. This parcel was acquired under a Section 8 (Taylor Grazing Act) exchange. When the order opening the lands to the administration of the public land laws was published, a C&MU classification was placed on it at the same time, precluding disposal. This parcel contains no unique resources and revoking the classification would put it in the same status of general retention as the other public lands adjacent to it.

Additional withdrawals may be forthcoming if Congress designates the Payette River as a Wild and Scenic River. The final acreage withdrawn may be more or less than that proposed in this plan.

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGIC RESOURCES

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource sites in critical need of special management (Grey's Creek, Indian Creek, Milk Creek, Cabin Creek, Mineral, Quartzburg, Centerville and Pioneerville) would continue to be protected only by BLM standard operating procedures. The effects of vandalism, livestock trampling, erosion and other agents of deterioration would continue causing the loss of scientific information within a short time. Since no monitoring of these sites is performed, no information concerning the rate of deterioration is available.

Additional inventory needed to determine the boundaries of these sites for National Register nomination would not be performed, and presently unknown cultural resource sites within these areas would not receive the additional protection afforded them by inclusion on the National Register.

Paleontologic Resources

The Cascade Resource Area paleontologic inventory is not complete. A review of the data presently available indicates that, once the inventory is completed and site clearances become standard practice, the required protection of the resource would be sufficient to keep the impacts minimal. No direct negative impacts to the resource are presently known. The greatest impact would be the possible loss of paleontologic resources on 2,680 acres proposed for transfer from federal ownership. Even with paleontologic clearances, unknown paleontologic resources could be lost, destroyed or closed off from scientific study.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Recreation

Based on the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (1983) data, the overall demand for recreation opportunities in the Cascade Resource Area is expected to increase 54-78% by the year 2000. This would result in demand increasing from the current 622,000 activity occasions to approximately 1,034,000 activity occasions. These increases are expected to occur primarily due to increased population and leisure time and should occur regardless of the alternative chosen in the RMP process. The location and relative mix of recreational activities would vary somewhat between alternatives, but overall demand throughout the CRA would be unaffected by any of the alternatives.

There would be 362,892 acres open to ORV use, 123,989 acres limited and 585 acres closed. Included are 2,000 acres which would be limited and 680 acres that would be open until the lands are transferred. The limited use areas would consist of the following acreages: Boise Front SRMA (11,995), Idaho City mines (40), Oxbow-Brownlee SRMA (39,777), Payette River Corridor (2,600), boat launches (12), Black Canyon Planning Unit (65,000 - includes long billed curlew habitat area), identified cultural sites (2,020), and candidate and sensitive plant sites or RNAs (2,545 - includes 900 acres within Little Gem Cycle Park). The 585 acres closed to ORVs would be developed recreation sites (28), the Silica Sands mineral site (40), the Hulls Gulch Nature Trail (5), and the Clay Peak Cycle Park buffer zone (512).

ORV use on the Boise Front SRMA is currently limited to designated roads and trails. Rehabilitation of the approximately 10 miles of closed roads and trails on the Boise Front might decrease unauthorized ORV use by as much as 15-20% (BLM lands only), with proportionate increases in the visual and aesthetic qualities and watershed integrity. An annual seasonal closure of approximately four miles of roads and trails for Boise Front winter deer habitat currently in effect would continue with minimal impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on ORV recreation by limiting use in the Oxbow-Brownlee SRMA, Payette River Corridor, cultural sites and candidate and sensitive plant sites would be minimal since little use off trails and roads in these areas is occurring now or is expected to occur in the near future (snowmobiles excepted).