

Description of Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE A

This alternative reflects the continuation of present management practices and programs now occurring on the public lands in the resource area. Changes to present stocking levels, land sales or exchanges, etc. would be handled on a case by case basis as most of the objectives and actions of the current MFPs have been accomplished. This alternative is the "no action" alternative.

The 487,466 acres of public lands would be placed into one of four multiple use or transfer categories as follows:

370,230 acres Moderate, 3,321 acres Intensive  
111,715 acres Limited, 2,200 acres Transfer

Livestock Resources

Objectives

Manage 461,686 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Maintain current condition of rangeland vegetation.

Livestock-AUMs: 72,571 Active Pref., 66,424 Licensed  
66,014 5 yr., 66,014 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers: 4 Mile 10 Initial, 10 20 yr.  
West Crane Creek 12 Initial, 12 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs: 20 yrs.: 4 Mile 120; West Crane Creek 144

Actions

Stock Driveways: 63,000 existing maintained, 0 existing eliminated  
(acres) 0 new added, 63,000 total available

Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 0 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 0 acres disc and seed  
20 yrs - 0 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 0 acres disc and seed

Projects: 12 mi. fence, 4 water developments, 6 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.  
0 AMPs will be prepared.

Livestock grazing will continue and may be adjusted on currently grazed public lands classified for transfer until these lands are transferred.

Special Considerations

Seed mixtures used to rehabilitate wildfires will include grass, forb and shrub species that will benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Watershed Resources

Objectives

Provide special designation and management for the Boise Front area (12,000 acres).

Actions

Update the following activity plans - HMP, RAMP.

Vegetative Resources

Objectives

Protect candidate and sensitive plants.

Protect and manage 13 specific sites containing candidate, sensitive, or uncommon plants or valuable plant communities.

Maintain the existing condition of rangeland vegetation.

Actions

Develop and implement management actions for areas found containing candidate or sensitive plants. Fence selected areas where harmful disturbance is likely. Monitor suspected areas.

Adjust livestock grazing practices in allotments that could shift to a lower condition class if present practices were to continue.

Protect candidate and sensitive plants in areas being managed for other uses that threaten the plants existence (i.e. mining) through mitigation.

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Designate and/or manage 13 areas as follows:

Special Management Areas	De-signations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres)			ORV Use (acres)		
			Locat-ables	Leasables		O	Surf	Sub	O	L	C
				With-drawal	Clo-sed						
1. Lost Basin Grassland <u>1/</u>	RNA	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0
2. Rebecca Sandhill <u>1/</u>	RNA	410	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	410	0
3. Sand Hollow <u>2/</u>	None	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek <u>2/</u>	None	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240	0
5. Paraphyllum Rock	None	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
6. Beacon Hill	None	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
7. Sagebrush Hill	None	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
8. Buckwheat Flats	None	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0
9. 4th July Meadow	None	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
10. Sand Capped Knob	None	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
11. Goodrich Creek <u>1/</u>	None	440	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	440	0
12. Pearl Site	None	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0
13. Prostrate Ceanothus	None	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0

1/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

2/ No water or salt blocks in area or on ridgeline.

Projects: 1 area to have plants removed for replanting (site 12 above)  
6 mi. fencing  
2 acres for interpretive signing

Activity Plans: Incorporate management needs for candidate and sensitive plant species in all activity plans where plants are known. Prepare two Research Natural Area Management Plans.

Wildlife Resources

Objectives

Manage 186,300 acres of elk habitat, 281,500 acres of deer habitat and 4,400 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations.

Manage 186,900 acres of sage grouse habitat to maintain existing brooding and nesting habitat.

Provide special management to maintain 61,000 acres of curlew habitat through implementation of the HMP. Improve 4,200 acres of sharp-tailed grouse habitat by developing and implementing an HMP on the Sage Creek allotment.

Maintain existing habitats for other wildlife species.

Wildlife Unit Months:	<u>5,516</u> Elk,	<u>29,420</u> Deer,	<u>600</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>143</u> yearlong Elk,	<u>694</u> yearlong Deer,	<u>50</u> yearlong Antelope
	<u>950</u> winter Elk,	<u>5,890</u> winter Deer	

### Actions

Vegetative Manipulation: 0 acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding,  
0 acres Burn, Disc & Seed, 0 acres Interseed,  
0 acres Special Project Seeding

Activity Plans: HMP for Curlew, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse; and deer (Boise Front).

Special Considerations (rehabilitation, seed mixture, seasonal restrictions, ORV restrictions)

### Riparian and Aquatic Resources

#### Objectives

Improve the condition of 11 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 106 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 14 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 67 miles of aquatic habitat.

#### Actions

Incorporate riparian pastures and/or special measures in AMPs to improve all riparian and aquatic habitat.

Projects: 14 mi. fencing, 11 mi. instream work  
18 mi. of stream bank planting

### Lands and Realty

#### Objectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 2,200 acres of public lands (243 acres through sale (T1); 1,397 acres through sale or exchange (T2); 0 acres through exchange; and classify 560 acres for potential DLE development). Retain 485,266 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

#### Actions

Initiate clearance actions (cultural, wildlife, paleontologic, etc.) on lands to be transferred. Provide 2-year notifications to livestock permittees once the final decision to transfer has been made.

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### Cultural Resources

#### Objective

Protect, through standard operating procedures, areas with significant cultural values.

#### Actions

Manage nine cultural sites as shown below:

Sites	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW			ORV Use		
		Locatables	Leasables		Avoidance			(acres) 4/		
		Withdrawal	Closed	No Surf	(acres) 1/	O	S	Sub	O	L
1. Placerville Townsite 2/	8	8	0	0	0	3/	3/	0	8	0
2. Grays Creek	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
3. Indian Creek	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
4. Milk Creek	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
5. Cabin Creek	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
6. Quartzburg	386	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	386	0
7. Centerville	516	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	516	0
8. Pioneerville	581	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	581	0
9. Mineral	429	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	429	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

2/ National Register of Historic Places (existing).

3/ Acreage to be determined by National Register determination process (reevaluation).

4/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

Projects: 0 mi. fencing

Activity Plans: 0

### Recreation Resources

#### Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation at 21 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

#### Actions

Designate ORV recreation activity as open on 362,892 acres, limited on 123,989 acres and closed on 585 acres. ORV recreation activity will remain open on 680 acres, and limited on 2,000 acres proposed for transfer until lands are transferred.

Designate and manage 21 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Areas		Minerals (acres)			ROW <sup>1/</sup> Avoidance (acres)			ORV (acres) <sup>2/</sup>		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables	No	0	Surf	Sub	0	L	C
	Type	Acres	With-drawal	Clo-sed	Surf	0	Surf	Sub	0	L	C
1. Cascade Uplands <sup>3/</sup>	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	328,790	1,261	0
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	0	0	948	948	436	0	512
4. Oxbow Brownlee <sup>5/</sup>	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	<sup>4/</sup> 0	0	0	39,777	0
5. Wild Horse	Camp-ground	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
6. Steck	Camp-ground	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
7. Weiser Dunes	Play Area	200	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	0	0
8. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
9. Payette River Corridor <sup>6/</sup>	SRMA	19,000	0	0	0	0	2,600	0	16,384	2,600	0
10. North Fork	Camp-ground	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
11. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
12. South Fork	Camp-ground	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
13. Chief Parish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
14. Boise Front <sup>7/</sup>	SRMA	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
15. Hulls Gulch	Interprt Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
16. Treasure Valley <sup>8/</sup>	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,964	58,856	0
17. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,100	900	0
18. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	0	0
19. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0
20. Pickles Butte	Play Area	500	0	0	0	0	500	0	500	0	0
21. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0	0

<sup>1/</sup> 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.<sup>2/</sup> 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.<sup>3/</sup> Specific constraints covered under Weiser River and Clay Peak.<sup>4/</sup> Except for Electrical Transmission towers within Existing ROW.<sup>5/</sup> Covered under Snake River, Steck, Weiser Dunes and Wild Horse.<sup>6/</sup> Specific constraints covered under North Fork, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parish.<sup>7/</sup> Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.<sup>8/</sup> Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Dewey, Parma and Pickles Butte.

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Projects: Water and/or Sanitary facilities 6, launch ramp 3, access 6

Activity Plans: Interagency Cooperative Management Plan, RAMPs for Payette River Corridor, Boise Front, and Oxbow Brownlee SRMAs.

Analyze the Box Creek WSA (110-91A) for wilderness suitability through a statewide EIS. Consider the USFS (Payette National Forest) recommendations for the adjacent roadless area called Lick Creek (WSA 4-455).

### Forest Resources

#### Objectives

Manage 26,686 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

Allow firewood harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) on forest lands.

Manage 5,209 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawal and 70 acres for seed orchard withdrawal.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 1.0 MMBF.

Obtain access to suitable commercial forest lands through acquisition when necessary for program management.

#### Actions

Projects: Build 40 mi. of forest access road (2 miles annually)

Acquire access to one to two areas

Activity Plans: Timber Management Plans

#### Special Considerations

Harvesting of suitable commercial forest land will generally be through selective cutting practices. Any clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less. Timber harvest would occur on approximately 100-400 acres annually.

### Mineral Resources

#### Objectives

Make 456,289 acres (94% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 456,289 acres (94% of area) for leasable mineral exploration and development.

Continue making available saleable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use permit sites as needed.

Actions

Leasables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Salables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	45	456,281	31,185	95	0