

## ALTERNATIVE E

## (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

The objective of this alternative is to provide an optimum mixture of protection and enhancement of the natural environment with commodity resource utilization (renewable and nonrenewable). Preservation of significant natural resource features is provided for along with moderate increases in commodity resource use. This is the preferred alternative.

A portion of the Payette River would be recommended for study for possible addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Areas of special interest or fragile environments would be given special designation such as Research Natural Areas and ACEC.

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

<u>328,453</u>	acres Moderate,	<u>3,004</u>	acres Intensive
<u>138,405</u>	acres Limited,	<u>17,604</u>	acres Transfer

Livestock ResourcesObjectives

Manage 449,059 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Livestock-AUMs: 72,571 Active Pref., 66,424 Licensed  
66,257 Initial, 68,000 5 yr., 70,536 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers: 4 Mile 10 Initial, 20 20 yr.  
West Crane Creek 12 Initial, 0 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs: 20 yrs.: 4 Mile 240; West Crane 0

Actions

Stock Driveways: 40,763 existing maintained, 22,237 existing eliminated  
(acres) 627 new added, 41,390 total available

## Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 5,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 2,000 acres disc'd & seed  
20 yrs - 18,279 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 6,000 acres disc'd & seed

Projects: 60 mi. fence, 66 water developments, 15 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.  
12 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.

## Description of Alternatives

### Special Considerations

Seed mixtures on vegetative manipulations will include grass, forb and shrub species that will benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Note: For analysis purposes for livestock use levels (AUMs), it was assumed that only the current land transfer applications being processed would be completed within the next 5 years and that no other land transfers would occur within the next 5 years. Consequently the 5-year forage level for livestock in the preferred alternative is not comparable with the 5-year forage level for livestock in Alternatives A, B, C, and D since it was assumed that all land transfers in those alternatives would be completed at the end of 5 years. See Appendix G for further information.

### Watershed Resources

#### Objectives

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

#### Actions

Designate 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC and prepare/update the following activity plans - HMP, RAMP.

### Vegetative Resources

#### Objectives

Protect candidate or sensitive plants.

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

Improve general condition on 32% of all fair and 11% of all good condition rangeland.

Change or improve condition on 31% of the poor condition rangeland and maintain condition on remaining.

#### 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.

Exclude surface and subsurface ROWs in those areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants. Include no surface occupancy stipulations in all mineral leases.

Adjust livestock grazing practices and reduce livestock preferences in allotments in poor and fair condition.

Mechanically treat (through range and wildlife projects) areas of poor and fair condition rangeland that possess a high return potential.

Designate and/or manage 13 areas as follows:

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

<sup>1/</sup> 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

<sup>2/</sup> 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

<sup>3/</sup> Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

<sup>4/</sup> No water or salt blocks in area or on ridgeline.

Projects: 6 mi. fencing  
5 acres for interpretive signing

Activity Plans: Incorporate management needs for candidate and sensitive plant species in all activity plans where plants are known.

Prepare five Research Natural Area Management Plans.

### Wildlife Resources

#### Objectives

Manage 181,640 acres of elk habitat, 275,250 acres of deer habitat and 4,400 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations of these animals.

Manage 185,860 acres of sage grouse habitat to improve brooding and nesting habitat.

Description of Alternatives

Improve 23,912 acres of wildlife habitat through new seeding and interseeding existing areas and shrub plantings.

Provide special management on 61,000 acres of curlew and 32,960 acres of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitats to improve populations of these sensitive species.

Maintain existing habitats for other wildlife species.

Wildlife Unit Months:	<u>7,124</u> Elk,	<u>44,612</u> Deer,	<u>1,800</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>191</u> yrlong Elk,	<u>961</u> yrlong Deer,	<u>175</u> yrlong
	<u>1,208</u> winter Elk,	<u>8,270</u> winter Deer,	Antelope

Actions

Vegetative Manipulation: 10,387 acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding,  
8,295 acres Burn, Disc & Seed,  
2,230 acres Interseed,  
3,000 acres Special Project Seeding

Projects: 30 mi. fence, 2 Guzzler

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

Designate 61,000 acres of curlew habitat and 4,200 acres of sharp-tailed grouse habitat as ACECs.

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

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

Objectives

Improve the condition of 16 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 102 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 14 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 66 miles of aquatic habitat.

Actions

Adjust livestock grazing practices on riparian areas in allotments where riparian/aquatic projects are proposed.

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

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

Lands and Realty

Objectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 17,604 acres of public lands (563 acres through sale (T1) and 10,107 acres through sale or exchange (T2) and 6,374 acres through exchange (T3), and 560 acres through DLE (T4)). Retain 469,862 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.

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation at 21 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

Manage 2,600 acres of public lands along the Payette River as a Wild and Scenic River (recreation river category).

Actions

Designate ORV recreation activity as open on 244,118 acres, limited (to existing or designated roads and trails) on 241,215 acres and closed on 2,133 acres.

Manage 11,084 acres of public lands recommended for transfer as limited to designated or existing roads and trails and 6,160 acres as open for ORV recreation, until lands are transferred.

Recommend the study of 8 miles of Payette River (South Fork) for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a recreation river.

Obtain recreational access through easement and acquisition of lands.

Description of Alternatives

Designate and manage 21 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Designations		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat- ables	Lease- ables		O	Surf	Sub.	O	L	C
				With- drawal	Clo- sed						
1. Cascade Uplands 3/	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	241,498	88,039	5
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	948	0	948	0	436	0	512
4. Oxbow Brownlee 4/	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,779	0
5. Steck	Campground	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
6. Weiser Dunes	Play Area 5/	200	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	0	0
7. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
8. Payette River Corridor 6/	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (2,600/ 8 mi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,984	0
9. North Fork	Campground 5/	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
10. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
11. South Fork	Campground 5/	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
12. Chief Parrish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
13. Boise Front 7/	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
14. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
15. Treasure Valley 8/	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,780	0
16. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000 9/	0	2,100	900	0
17. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	0	0
18. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0
19. Pickles Butte	Play Area	180	0	0	0	0	180	0	180	0	0
20. Paddock Reservoir 5/	Campground	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	5
21. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0

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

2/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

3/ Specific constraints covered under Weiser River, Clay Peak, and Paddock Reservoir.

4/ Specific constraints covered under Steck, Weiser Dunes and Snake River.

5/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

6/ Specific constraints covered under North Fork, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.

7/ Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.

8/ Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Pickles Butte, Dewey and Parma.

9/ Except for electrical transmission towers in existing right-of-way.

Projects: Water and/or sanitary facilities - 8, launch ramp - 3, access - 8

Activity Plans: RAMPs for Oxbow-Brownlee, Payette River Corridor, and Boise Front.

Cultural Resources

Objectives

Protect, through special designation and management, areas with significant cultural values.

Actions

Nominate eight sites to the National Register of Historic Places and manage as shown below.

Surface and subsurface ROWs will be routed to avoid cultural sites.

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

<sup>1/</sup> National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>2/</sup> Acreage to be determined by National Register nomination process.

<sup>3/</sup> O = Open, L = Limited, C = Closed.

<sup>4/</sup> National Register of Historic Places (existing).

<sup>5/</sup> O = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

Projects: 5 mi. fencing

Activity Plans: CRMP (9)

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

## Description of Alternatives

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

Manage 5,232 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed orchard withdrawal and 23 acres for campground withdrawal.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF.

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

### Actions

Projects: Build 68 mi. of forest access road (3.4 miles annually)  
Acquire access on 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 150-700 acres annually.

### Mineral Resources

#### Objectives

Make 456,281 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 salable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use sites as needed.

#### Actions

Leasables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Salables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	3,549	456,281	31,185	95	0