

## Affected Environment

### Livestock

The Cascade Resource Area consists of 2,771,188 acres of which 487,466 acres are public lands. The grazing program in the area includes virtually all of the public land acreage, a majority of the 182,534 acres of state land and portions of 2,101,228 acres of private lands.

There are 338 allotments in the area that have a current total active preference of 72,571 AUMs (Animal Unit Months) for livestock forage. The five year average use is for 66,424 AUMs which is 6,147 AUMs less than active preference.

The 338 grazing allotments are utilized by 244 livestock ranching permittees. The grazing preference used by each ranges from 4 AUMs to over 4,253 AUMs.

An allotment stratification by management intensity (MIC) has been completed. Results are as follows:

Management Category	Number of Allotments	Percent of Allotments	BLM Acres in Category	Percent of Resource Area
Maintain	52	15	46,647	9
Improve	78	23	356,101	73
Custodial	208	62	62,172	13
Unallotted			22,546	5
TOTALS	338	100	487,466	100

There are currently 7 allotment management plans (AMPS) in the area. These AMPs were developed and began operation prior to 1975. Grazing systems were developed ranging from rest rotation to deferred use to season long use.

There are several designated stock driveways within the area. They are used extensively by about 20,000 trailing sheep two times a year. There are presently approximately 63,000 acres in the stock driveways. See Map 7 and Appendices E, F, and G for further information.

Most of the 95,516 acres of public land that were burned by wildfires during 1986 were grazed by livestock. The fire rehabilitation efforts which were subsequently initiated including seeding the more severely burned areas. Livestock non-use is seeded and adjacent areas, and deferred use, particularly on native ranges, were initiated to allow seeding establishment and native range regrowth.

### Wild Horses

The Cascade Resource Area currently recognizes and manages two wild horse herds: The Four Mile Herd and the West Crane Herd.

The Four Mile wild horse herd fluctuates between 10 and 75 animals depending upon the ability of the BLM to gather and adopt them out. The horses graze on about 18,500 acres in common with 1 livestock permittee licensed for 4,700 AUMs. To reduce the effects of increased wild horse numbers the permittee has taken voluntary non-use of 424 AUMs since 1977. This has in turn reduced depredation of private lands and critical mule deer winter range. In 1982 and 1984 horses were gathered in Four Mile and the present population is approximately 10-12 head.

In January 1987, the Four Mile wild horse herd was removed. This entire herd of 16 horses was removed to prevent damage to the public rangeland and adjacent private land following the 1986 wildfires. Seeding a portion of the range used by the wild horses is included in fire rehabilitation efforts. Temporary livestock non-use was initiated to allow seeding establishment. The Four Mile wild horse herd is proposed to be reestablished once sufficient forage becomes available for their support.

The West Crane wild horse herd currently extends its range over about 10,280 acres. The herd generally has 10-25 animals. They compete with about 1,748 AUMs of livestock (cattle, sheep and horses) forage needs on the allotment utilized by 7 permittees. To facilitate the forage of wild horses, wildlife and livestock, the livestock carrying capacity was reduced 24% in 1977. Pasture management has been unsuccessful in the past because of the wild horses. Fences have been broken through and horses range throughout the allotment. Consequently range forage conditions have decreased in many of the pastures. Horses were gathered in 1977 and 1982 and the present population numbers between 15 and 20 head.

## LANDS AND REALTY RESOURCES

### Lands

The RA currently has 5 pending DLE applications and one allowed entry on file for a total of 560 acres. Of the total acreage, 120 acres is an allowed entry, 400 acres have been classified suitable for entry, and 40 acres remain to be classified. The allowed entry was allowed in 1984 prior to the beginning of this RMP effort. Final proof has been held and the patent is pending.

There are three exchange proposals currently pending in the RA. The first exchange is a State proposal to acquire 6,251 acres of public land for 6,171 acres of State land. The exchange would consolidate State and public lands. The second exchange is a private proposal to acquire 120 acres of public land for 160 acres of private land. The offered private land is identified for acquisition in the Boise Front MFP to facilitate watershed and grazing management and the selected public land has been recommended for sale or exchange in accordance with the Black Canyon MFP. The third exchange is a private proposal to acquire 83 acres of public land for 14 acres of private land. The selected public land has been recommended for sale or exchange in accordance with the Black Canyon MFP. The exchange would improve management by blocking public lands.

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There are nine outstanding R&PP leases; five are for sanitary landfills, one sand and gravel storage site, one motorcycle park, one proposed school site, and one shooting range.

### Rights-of-Ways

The RA is traversed by numerous man-made developments including at least eight utility transmission lines (69 KV and greater), two buried gas lines, the Union Pacific Railroad system, numerous paved highways and roads such as I-84, U.S. 95 and Highway 55, and several major irrigation structures such as the New York and Mora Canals, Black Canyon Irrigation Canal and the Farmers Union Canal.

In addition to the linear developments there are also five authorized communication sites. These include sites on Squaw Butte and Crown Point and one site each northeast of Parma, south of Emmett and west of Crouch.

The RA currently has one issued and two pending leases. All three are for occupancy.

A significant number of permits have been issued. Currently 19 permits are existing and include a variety of users, including agriculture (7), anemometer site (1), occupancy (1), airstrip (2), apiary (7), and seismic data collection site (1).

### Withdrawals

Approximately 31,000 acres of public land are withdrawn from disposal and are managed cooperatively or solely by other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Department of Defense. As directed by Section 204(L) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, these withdrawals are being systematically reviewed to determine if they still serve their intended purpose.

Section 204(a) of FLPMA also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make, modify, extend, or revoke withdrawals such as those establishing stock driveways. Currently, the RA has approximately 63,000 acres withdrawn from disposal for stock driveway purposes.

The RA also has one pending withdrawal application filed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service. The application was filed in 1972 with the intent of closing an unspecified number of acres on the Payette River to mining.

## CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGIC RESOURCES

### Cultural Resources

The Cascade Resource Area has been inventoried for cultural resources at the Class II and III levels. Thirty-five prehistoric and five historic sites were discovered during this inventory. Prehistoric sites included quarries, workshops, habitation sites and undefined lithic scatters, typical

of late archaic sites of the northern Great Basin with possible paleo and Cascade components. Historic sites included rock structures (cairns) and scatters of historic debris associated with late 19th and early 20th century ranching activities. Sites discovered during the inventory have been evaluated to determine condition. The results of this evaluation show that 20% are in poor condition, 40% in fair condition and 30% in good condition. None of the cultural resource sites evaluated were in excellent condition and 10% had been destroyed. Agents of deterioration which are currently or have in the past caused impacts to sites are erosion (40%), livestock trampling (50%), road construction (27%) and reservoir construction (3%).

Livestock trampling is impacting cultural resource sites located between 3300' and 4500' elevations within 1/4 mile or adjacent to springs and perennial streams (high cultural resource site density areas) more heavily than elsewhere in the resource area.

Erosion (wind and water) contributes to the deterioration of sites already impacted by livestock trampling and water erosion impacts sites located on the banks of drainages and in areas subjected to recurrent flooding.

Important cultural resource sites in the Cascade Resource Area are identified below.

There is one cultural resource site in the Cascade Resource Area on BLM administered public land which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This is the Placerville Historical District consisting of historic structures within the townsite of Placerville representing late 19th and early 20th century mining activities in the Boise Basin.

The Placerville Historic District was accepted to the NRHP based on the architectural features of existing historic structures. The archaeological potential of this district has not been determined. The BLM manages approximately 8 acres within the 100 acre Historic District. No other cultural sites in the Cascade Resource Area are currently receiving special protection.

The Greys Creek cultural resource site consists of a large lithic scatter running along the bank of Grey's Creek for approximately 400 meters, and is 40,000 square meters total area. An intermittent tributary of Grey's Creek runs through a portion of the site, exposing buried artifacts. The artifact assemblage includes large bifaces, blades and projectile points which indicate a late archaic period of occupation. A portion of the site is on private land on which a corral has been constructed and livestock graze the area on both private and BLM administered land. The Greys Creek site is deteriorating rapidly from the effects of livestock trampling and erosion.

The Indian Creek cultural resource site is located on a terrace adjacent to an intermittent tributary to Indian Creek and consists of an abundance of secondary and final shaping flake debitage of black fine grained basalt and obsidian. One intact projectile point (Cascade) was collected. A circular grinding stone 11" in diameter with a worn circular depression in the center 4" wide and 3" deep was observed on the site. The site is being seriously

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damaged by the effects of livestock trampling and erosion. The Indian Creek site is deteriorating from the impacts of livestock trampling and erosion. This site may represent cultural influences different from the typical Great Basin culture normally associated with this area.

The Milk Creek cultural resource site is an extensive lithic workshop/campsite. Abundant secondary basalt flake debitage litters the ground and lesser amounts of primary debitage are also present. Some obsidian final shaping debitage has been observed. The site is adjacent to a manmade reservoir which impounds an intermittent spring flow. The reservoir is about 30 x 30 meters in area and probably sits on portions of the original site. The context of observed artifacts is questionable because the area of highest artifact concentration apparently lies in excavated materials in the area now occupied by the reservoir. The context and condition of the site have also been affected by the large numbers of cattle that have severely trampled the area around the reservoir. The Milk Creek site is in poor condition.

The Cabin Creek cultural resource site is a large campsite on both sides of an intermittent drainage running into Cabin Creek. The site is heavily disturbed by livestock trampling and erosion. Lithic material includes fine-grained basalt, black ignimbrite, obsidian and multi-colored chert. Cores, primary, secondary and finishing flakes are present as well as finished tool forms. Many utilized flakes, an obsidian biface base, a spokeshave and an obsidian biface fragment were observed as well as an excellent groundstone mortar (left in place) and fire cracked rock. Flakes are eroding out of the streambank to a depth of about one meter. Historic artifacts are also present. The Cabin Creek site is deteriorating from the effects of livestock trampling and erosion.

Pioneerville, Quartzburg, Centerville, and Mineral are historic townsites which represent early settlement and mining activity in Idaho. The BLM manages only portions of the sections in which townsites are located (Pioneerville: 581.8 acres; Quartzburg: 385.75 acres; Centerville: 515.79 acres; Mineral: 428.97 acres).

## Paleontologic Resources

The Cascade area has not been researched for paleontologic materials. All sedimentary formations are known to have produced specimens. Many localities are known to produce leaf specimens and/or petrified wood. Fossil vertebrate finds have been highly significant but locality data is limited. Other fossil materials include the invertebrates. At present, pelecypods and snails are the only invertebrates known from the Cascade Resource Area.

A general interest in paleontology in the Cascade Resource Area continues. Hobby collecting of petrified wood is very popular with fossil leaf collecting of secondary interest. Vertebrate collecting is presently limited to professional research.

There are no areas presently closed to collecting. Little information on localities and their significance is available as no paleo inventory has been completed on the area.