

T-4: Desert Land Entry (DLE) - These lands may be transferred through Desert Land Application for agricultural development.

T-5: Commercial Forest Lands - These lands may only be considered for the exchange of land (State or private) containing resource values of national significance such as, within boundaries of wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, historic, cultural or paleontologic areas, endangered species habitat or crucial wildlife habitat that can be managed by the BLM or for other commercial forest lands of equal value that would improve BLM management.

Retention Areas

All public lands not identified in a transfer category will be retained in public ownership and managed under one of the three multiple use categories. Those lands determined to be unsuitable for disposal, after detailed consideration, will be retained. Requests to consider lands for possible transfer, after plan approval, will be evaluated through the amendment procedure in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-5) and BLM Manual 1616.22 and 1617.4A or B.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

The Cascade Resource Area is located within the administrative boundary of the Boise District. It is situated in west-central Idaho. The Resource Area is defined by the Snake River on the west and southwest; the Boise and Payette National Forest boundaries on the east; the northern line of Adams County on the north; and the Boise River-New York and Mora Canals - Ada/Canyon County line on the southeast.

The Resource Area encompasses a land base of approximately 2.77 million acres. This area includes all or portions of Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties. Land ownership consists of public lands (487,000 acres), State of Idaho (183,000 acres) and private (2.10 million acres).

In general, the public lands consist of scattered, unconsolidated tracts intermingled with the state and private lands. The Bureau of Land Management administers approximately 456,466 acres of the public lands. The remaining 31,000 acres are managed cooperatively with other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Department of Defense.

The Cascade Resource Area is the most heavily populated in the Boise District, if not the state. According to the "1980 Census of Population," issued in June 1983, approximately 305,000 people or 32% of Idaho's population reside in the Resource Area. The majority of these people are located within the Treasure Valley in the Cities of Boise (the state's capital and largest city), Nampa and Caldwell. Other cities located in the Resource Area include Emmett, Payette, Weiser, McCall, Cascade, and Horseshoe Bend, Council and Cambridge.

The detailed environmental characteristics of the Resource Area are described in the Analysis of Management Situation documents available for review at the Boise District Office.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE E

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.

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

The planning decisions for recreation and wildlife in the Boise Front and Black Canyon MFPs would be unchanged and protection of the habitat area for long-billed curlews in the Black Canyon area would be maintained.

Areas of special interest or fragile environments would be given special designation such as research natural areas and ACECs.

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>138,403</u>	acres Limited,	<u>17,604</u>	acres Transfer

Livestock Resources

Objectives

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 reservoirs/wells/springs, 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 but under temporary nonrenewable basis until lands are transferred.

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, or D since it was assumed that all land transfers in these 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 Federal candidate and 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 these areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

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 manage 13 areas as follows:

Special Management Areas	De-signations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres) 1/			ORV Use (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables	Leaseables		O	Surf	Sub	O	L	C
				With-drawal	Clo-sed						
1. Lost Basin Grassland ^{3/}	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 ^{4/} ^{3/}	None	500	0	0	500	0	500	500	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek ^{4/}	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 ^{3/}	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

^{1/} 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

^{2/} 0 = Open, L = Limited, C = Closed.

^{3/} Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

^{4/} 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.

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 Guzzlers

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

Proposed Resource Management Plan

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 notification to livestock permittees once the final decision to transfer has been made.

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation use 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 (recreational 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 2,113 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 easements and acquisition of lands.

Designate and manage 21 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Areas		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/ Avoidance (acres)			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables	No Surf	O	Surf	Sub.	O	L	C
	Type	Acres	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 6/	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (2,600/ 8 mi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,984	0
9. North Fork 5/	Campground	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 5/	Campground	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, Dewey, Parma and Pickles Butte.

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