



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Challis Resource Area
Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater Districts
Salmon, Idaho

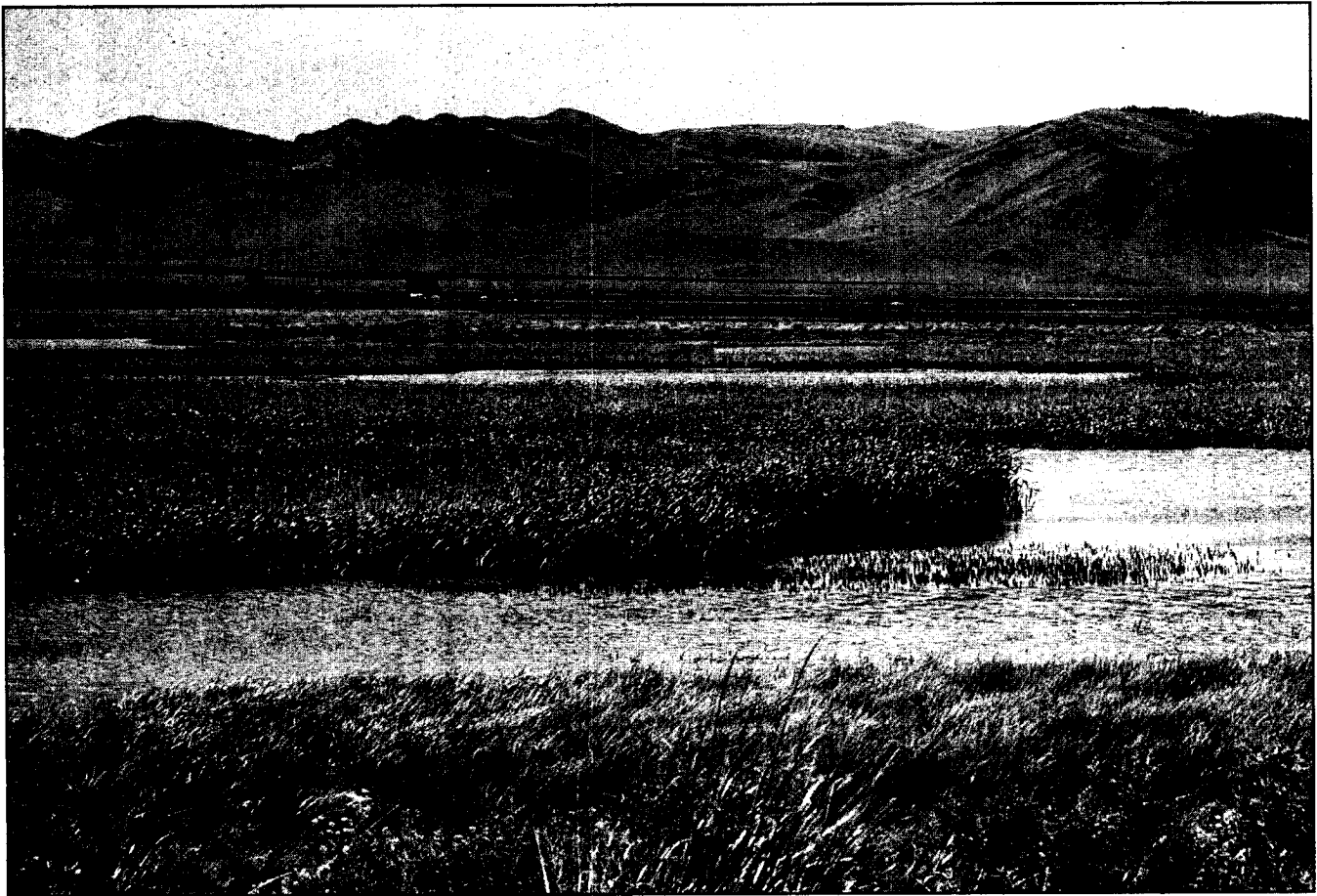
October 1998



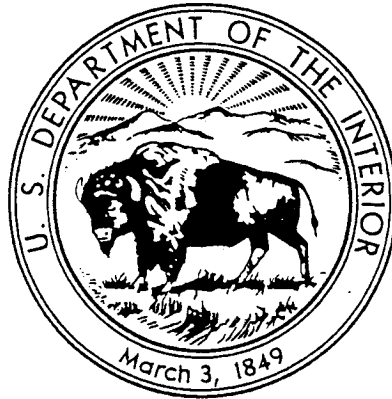
Challis Resource Area

**Proposed Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

Volume 1 (of 2) - Chapters 1 and 2, Proposed RMP, Glossary, Maps

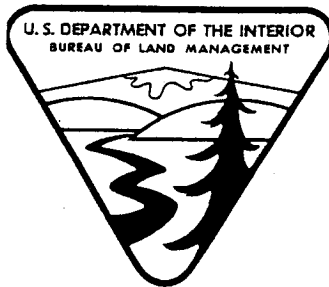


Chilly Slough Wetland



The BLM Mission Statement

"The Bureau of Land Management sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."



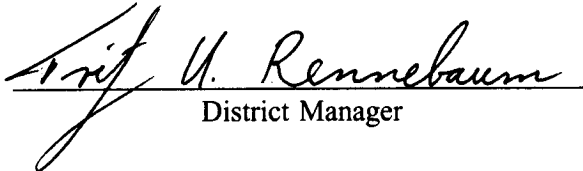
Challis Resource Area

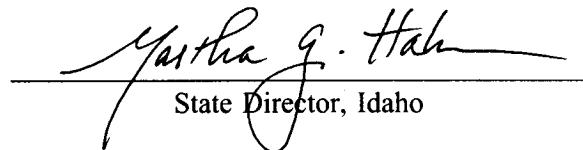
Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

October 1998

Prepared by:

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater Districts
Challis Resource Area
Salmon, Idaho


District Manager


State Director, Idaho

Challis Resource Area

Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

- Document Status:** Draft () Final (X)
- Lead Agency:** United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
- Type of Action:** Administrative (X) Legislative ()
- Action Location:** Challis Resource Area, Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater Districts, BLM
Lemhi and Custer Counties, State of Idaho
- Abstract:** The Challis Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) describes the Bureau of Land Management's proposed plan for managing approximately 792,567 acres of public lands administered by the BLM within the Challis Resource Area. The PRMP/FEIS is based on the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) described in the Challis Draft RMP/EIS (BLM, May 1996), as modified in response to public and tribal comments and internal BLM recommendations. It describes changes from and corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS, updates the discussion of the affected environment, provides an analysis of environmental consequences for the Proposed RMP, and records public comments and responses. The PRMP/FEIS incorporates the Draft RMP/EIS by reference and should be used in conjunction with that document.
- For Further Information Contact:** Kathe Rhodes, Resource Management Plan Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
Route 2, Box 610
Salmon, Idaho 83467
(208) 756-5440
- Review Period:** The public review period for the Challis Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement is 30 calendar days. The 30-day review period shall begin when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of the filing of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the *Federal Register*. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater Districts
Challis Resource Area
Route 2, Box 610
Salmon, Idaho 83467

In Reply Refer To:

1610/1793 (045)

October 1998

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your information is the Challis Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS). The PRMP/FEIS is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) and accompanying environmental consequences discussion contained in the Challis Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (BLM, May 1996), with consideration given to public and tribal comments and BLM internal recommendations. In addition to describing the BLM's proposed management of public lands in the Challis Resource Area, the PRMP contains the BLM's proposed amendment of the Little Lost-Birch Creek Management Framework Plan, which would affect management of public lands in the Donkey Hills portion of the Big Butte Resource Area.

The PRMP/FEIS describes changes from and corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS, updates the discussion of the affected environment, provides an analysis of environmental consequences for the Proposed RMP, and records public comments and responses. The PRMP/FEIS restates portions of the Draft RMP and EIS that are critical to understanding the Proposed Plan and its analysis of environmental consequences. Other information included in the Draft RMP/EIS is incorporated by reference into this PRMP/FEIS.

Anyone interested in protesting the PRMP must do so by close of business 30 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*. See "Protest Procedures" on the following pages for more detailed protest information.

Following the 30-day protest period, the Governor of Idaho's consistency review, resolution of any protests, and review of comments on the FEIS, the RMP will become final. The Record of Decision for the approved Resource Management Plan will then be prepared.

We want to thank the tribes, individuals, groups, and agencies who attended public meetings and who took time to provide either oral or written comments during the last several years.

Sincerely,

Renee Snyder,
Area Manager

Protest Procedures

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM Director if you believe the approval of a proposed RMP or plan amendment would be in error. (See 43 CFR 1610.5-2.) Careful adherence to these guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in our planning process leading to the Challis Proposed RMP and amendment of the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP may protest. If our records do not indicate that you had any involvement in any stage in the preparation of the Challis Proposed RMP and amendment of the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP, your protest will be dismissed without further review.

A protesting party may raise only those issues which he or she submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues raised in the protest period should be directed to the Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater Districts Manager or the Challis Area Manager for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate.

The period for filing a plan protest begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes in the *Federal Register* its Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement containing the proposed RMP or amendment. The protest period extends for 30 days. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests shall be filed with:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator
WO-210/LS-1075
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

The overnight mail address is:

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210)
1620 L Street, N.W., Room 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036
[phone: 202/452-5110]

To expedite consideration, *in addition to the original* sent by mail or overnight mail, a **copy of the protest** may be sent by

FAX to 202/452-5112; or
E-mail to bhudgens@wo.blm.gov

WO-210 will immediately acknowledge receipt of the protest and FAX/e-mail a copy to the appropriate State Director and the assigned Planning, Assessment, and Community Support (PACS) Field Support Staff.

Protests filed late, or filed with the State Director, or District, Field, or Area Manager, shall be rejected by WO-210.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Challis Proposed RMP or Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect. *This is a critical part of your protest.* Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, and available planning records, (*i.e.*, meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the Idaho State Director's proposed decision, without any data will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

Proposed RMP/Final EIS: Content and Organization

The Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS (PRMP/FEIS) is organized into two volumes, as described below. The document is numbered consecutively, with the exception of maps, which have map numbers but no page numbers. A table of contents is included at the beginning of each volume, and an index to the entire PRMP/FEIS is provided at the end of **Volume 2**. The dividers to some sections (Proposed RMP, Proposed RMP Attachments, Maps, Comment Letters and Responses) also contain an abbreviated Table of Contents to those sections.

Volume 1

Summary: Summarizes the following portions of the PRMP/FEIS: the purpose and need for action; issues and management concerns addressed; development of the Proposed RMP; the affected environment; and the environmental consequences, including a comparison of impacts between the Preferred Alternative (Draft RMP) and the Proposed RMP.

Chapter 1 - Introduction: Describes the BLM planning process for developing a resource management plan (RMP) and the purpose of and need for the Challis RMP. Lists individuals who contributed to preparation of the Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Also lists corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS.

Chapter 2 - Alternatives: Describes how the Proposed RMP was developed in response to tribal and public comments and BLM internal recommendations. (**Note:** Tribal and public comments and BLM responses are contained in **Volume 2, Chapter 5**). Describes the changes between the Draft RMP/EIS - Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) and the Proposed RMP. Compares the environmental consequences of the Draft RMP - Alternative 2 and the Proposed RMP. Any unavoidable adverse impacts are stated, including irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources. **Note:** A complete discussion of environmental consequences is provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 4**.

Proposed Resource Management Plan, and Attachments: Describes in detail the BLM's proposed management of land uses and resources within the Challis Resource Area.

Glossary: Defines acronyms and terms used in the text and appendices which may be unfamiliar or specialized. (Acronyms are also defined with their first usage.)

Maps: All maps referred to in the Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS are placed in **Volume 1**. Smaller maps (8 1/2 x 11 inches) are numbered in alphabetical order by title and bound in **Volume 1**. Larger maps are folded in a maps pocket at the back of **Volume 1**.

Volume 2

Chapter 3 - Affected Environment: Discusses the existing condition of resources and programs in the Challis Resource Area. The chapter begins with background information on the Resource Area's geography, topography, and climate. Then each resource/program is described in two sections: (1) relevant law, regulation, and policy; and (2) the existing resource condition and trend (including any effects of past or on-going management).

Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences: Discloses the physical, social, and economic consequences of implementing the Proposed RMP, using the existing condition descriptions from **Chapter 3** as a baseline for comparison. Describes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing the decisions listed in the Proposed RMP and its attachments (see **Volume 1**).

Chapter 5 - Consultation, Coordination, Consistency, and Comment Letters and Responses: Summarizes the public involvement process since publication of the Draft RMP/EIS, consultation with persons and agencies, and efforts to achieve consistency. Also lists agencies, organizations, and persons to whom a copy of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be sent. Describes the process used to evaluate and respond to public comments. Reproduces public comment letters and provides BLM responses.

Appendices: Appendix items contain supplementary information that adds depth to the discussions in **Volumes 1 and 2**.

References: Provides the sources for material cited in the body of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and appendices.

Index: Provides a listing by page number of various topics of interest in **Volumes 1 and 2**.

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