

Figure 25—Economic subregions as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

that could be measured from information generated by the SIT; it is not comprehensive nor does it represent the total value of BLM and FS-administered lands in the Basin. It is an improvement on measuring only timber and range flows. Table 16 disaggregates the value of recreation for 12 recreational activities.

Mining has long been an important activity in specific areas of FS- and BLM-administered land in the Basin. The Economics chapter of the *Component Assessment* has details on the three major components of the Basin mining industry: metallic minerals, phosphates, and aggregates (sand, gravel, and crushed stone) each of which has distinct economic characteristics. For metallic minerals and phosphate, activity is minor in spatial scale but significant in national and international commodity markets. Aggregate mining is more widely distributed throughout the Basin and lower in value; aggregates are primarily traded in local markets and used to construct buildings and infrastructure associated with human populations

(photo 6). Although mining is important to jobs and income in a few communities in the Basin, when compared with a large, diverse, and growing economy, it represents a minor share of gross state product. Future minerals activity forecasts are in figure 28; the distribution depends on the locations of the deposits—quite specific for metals, minerals, and phosphate, but scattered for aggregates. Across the Basin, there are 180 mining and mineral processing sites in operation, 11 under development, and ten maintained on standby status; the value of production from these sites in 1992 was approximately \$2.7 billion. Future activity will depend on a number of factors, most of them not directly affected by BLM or FS policy: the minerals present and their grade, global prices, extraction and remediation technology, and access.

Counties differ in their reliance on timber and forage from FS- and BLM-administered lands. In some counties, FS- and BLM-administered lands provide a high proportion of the timber harvested



Photo by J. Craig

Photo 6—Production of aggregates is a common mining activity on FS- BLM-administered lands.

Figure 26—The location of isolated timber-dependent communities within each BEA area.

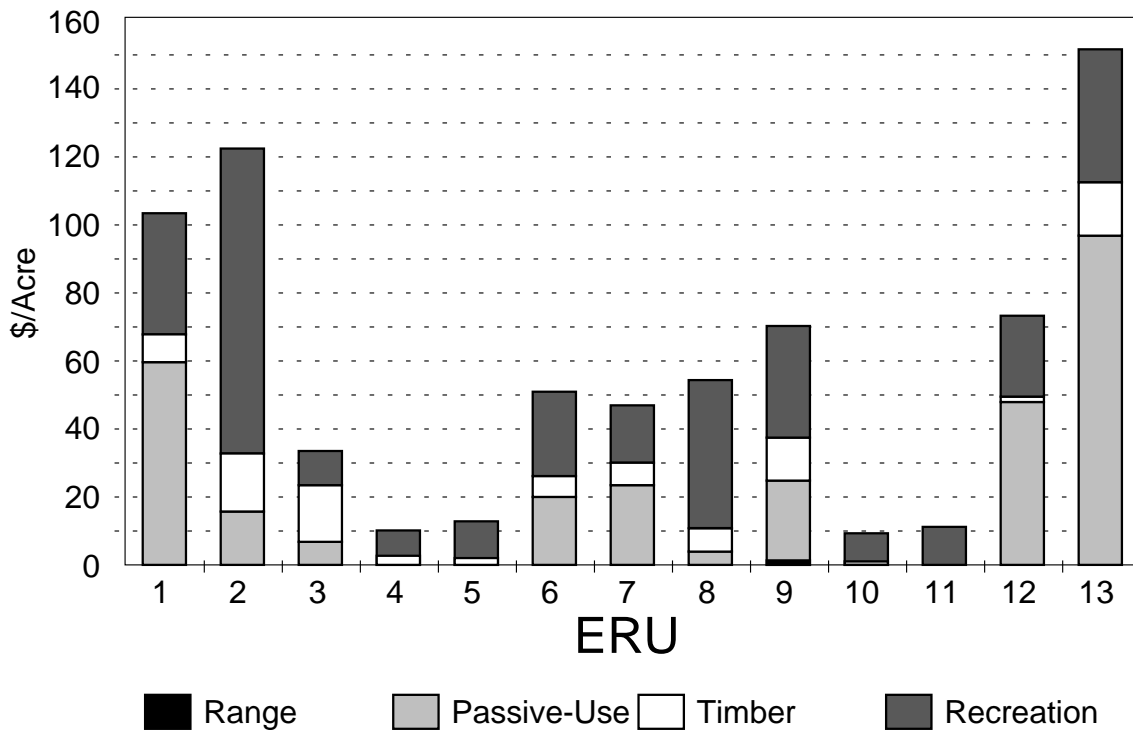


Figure 27—Per acre market basket value of selected goods and services from FS- and BLM-administered lands.

from all ownerships; in others, medium or low proportion (fig. 29). Similarly, forage from FS- and BLM-administered lands is a high, medium, or low proportion of the total feed in each county (fig. 30). Those areas most reliant on Federal grazing are in the southern portion of the assessment area. These latter areas are dominated by rangeland vegetation types and large blocks of Federal ownership.

Social¹⁵

Most of the social issues of interest relate to the rapid change occurring within the Basin. Changing economies are testing the ability of communities (both in the sense of “place” and in the sense of “communities of interest”) to adapt to external changes. Increasing human populations focused primarily in metropolitan and high amenity areas are raising questions about the extent to which

environmentally-based amenities are important in attracting population and business. Like people everywhere, the people of the Basin desire a higher quality of life.

The Bureau of Census recognizes 476 communities within the project area, including 29 cities larger than 10,000 in population and 49 Census-Designated Places, locations that are unincorporated but have an identity to the local population. Of the other 398 small rural communities, 68 percent are communities in the smallest size class of 1,500 or less. These range from 22 to 1,500 in size, with an average population of 520. In general, more-resilient communities tended to be larger, have an economy based on a mix of industries, be more autonomous, rated by residents as having a local government responsive to the public, and to have plans for dealing with change.

¹⁵ Details are in the *Component Assessment*--Social chapter.

Table 16—Net economic value (willingness to pay) of current recreation activities on FS-BLM lands, by ecological reporting unit (ERU).

Activity	Dollars per acre (in 1994 dollars)													Average by activity
	ERU 1	ERU 2	ERU 3	ERU 4	ERU 5	ERU 6	ERU 7	ERU 8	ERU 9	ERU 10	ERU 11	ERU 12	ERU 13	
Fishing	1.22	23.57	2.05	2.26	6.58	6.02	3.34	7.57	5.16	2.50	2.88	3.71	8.07	5.18
Hunting	3.22	6.96	1.44	1.48	1.47	5.59	4.44	15.56	14.29	2.86	2.82	4.03	8.90	4.97
Day use	4.20	12.80	1.58	0.80	0.68	3.02	2.35	6.89	3.50	0.29	0.71	3.13	6.08	2.77
Winter sports	5.43	14.88	0.31	0.50	0.24	3.29	1.35	2.24	2.31	1.10	2.11	5.68	5.78	2.65
Camping	5.87	6.33	2.80	0.86	0.48	2.53	1.52	3.44	1.83	0.49	0.64	1.41	2.78	1.81
Trail use	9.28	5.40	0.72	0.34	0.48	1.85	1.24	2.84	2.03	0.32	0.58	2.62	2.51	1.72
Motor viewing	5.09	5.44	0.36	0.39	0.19	0.68	1.01	2.33	1.14	0.17	0.29	0.92	2.25	0.98
Viewing wildlife	0.60	12.24	0.39	0.34	0.32	1.07	0.46	0.82	0.98	0.13	0.64	0.68	1.26	0.88
Motor boating	0.04	0.19	0.23	0.11	0.02	0.06	0.12	0.41	0.17	0.38	0.10	0.32	0.77	0.25
Nonmotor	0.05	1.21	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.21	0.27	0.25	0.03	0.04	0.77	0.52	0.21
Off road vehicle	0.34	0.14	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.33	0.18	0.05	0.11	0.11	0.31	0.12
Snow Mobile	0.16	0.15	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.16	0.25	0.01	0.02	0.20	0.14	0.07
Total by ERU	35.49	89.28	10.00	7.19	10.56	24.29	16.18	42.87	32.09	8.32	10.95	23.58	39.37	21.62

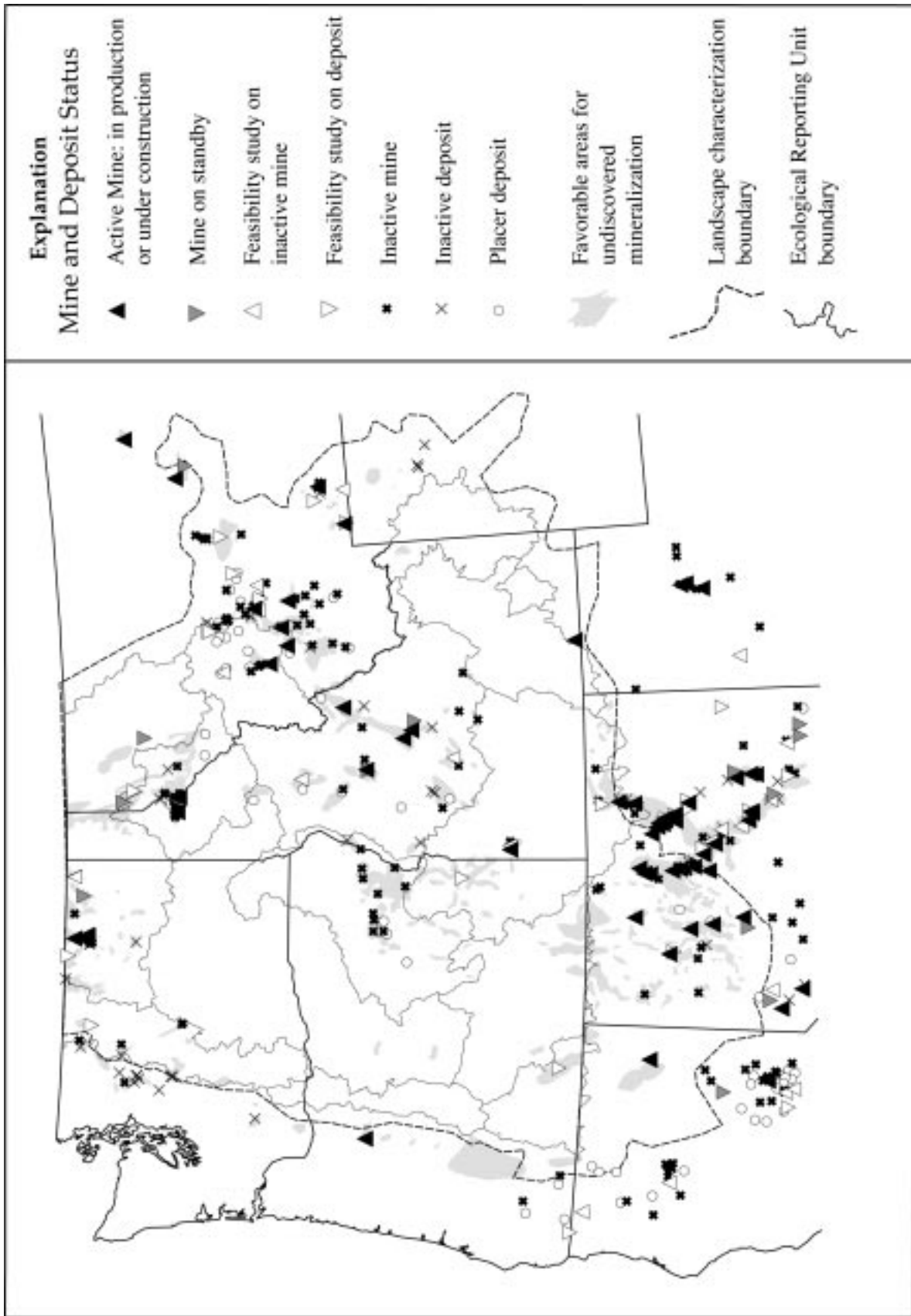


Figure 28—Mine and deposit status are shown for the Basin. Adapted from Bookstrom and others (1996), figures 2-6.

Figure 29—Reliance on timber harvested from FS- and BLM-administered lands.

Figure 30—Reliance on forage from FS- and BLM-administered lands.

Human attachments to places are important in determining the acceptability of management actions. This is particularly true of American Indian tribes. The traditional American Indian economy is broad-based, including fishing, fowling, hunting, and gathering of terrestrial and aquatic resources over very large geographic areas encompassing a diverse range of important places. Uses of and values toward the land are both utilitarian and symbolic, merged in an inseparable manner. Through a long series of treaties, laws, and court cases, American Indians have special status, and the Federal Government relates to tribes on a government-to-government basis. Access to Federally-administered land is important to uphold rights to resource use that are reserved under treaties. The Federal Government's Trust responsibilities based on treaties and their subsequent interpretation is long-reaching yet has not been articulated satisfactorily in terms that all involved understand and to which all agree.

Project surveys found that the public (both national and within the Basin) is increasingly concerned with seeking a balance between species protection and costs to society, a concern that is especially strong among Basin residents. People support the goal of healthy forests and rangelands, but some are skeptical about the effectiveness and sincerity of ecosystem management. Others oppose the notion of ecosystem management because of concerns over possible effects on private lands, the costs of restoration efforts, and economic effects on people, communities, and broader economies. On the topic of appropriate avenues and levels of public participation, another survey queried the public about preferences for participation in planning, regarding FS- and BLM-administered lands. Some 32 to 39 percent supported the public acting as a full and equal partner; 30 to 32 percent favored serving on advisory boards. Providing suggestions and making the decisions were chosen by roughly equal numbers (about

10-18%), and letting resource professionals decide was chosen by just one to three percent. The public is also concerned about the efficiency of public participation.

People value how the land appears to them. The Basin was characterized using five landscape themes¹⁶ that match the Forest Service's Scenery Management System (fig. 31). These five themes are:

Forest and Shrub Grasslands-lands where human intervention is minimum and natural processes dominate visually;

Forest-lands with a vegetative cover of forest species but where human intervention does not dominate the natural landscape;

Shrub/Grassland-lands with a vegetative cover of shrub, forb and/or grass species but where human intervention does not dominate the natural landscape;

Agricultural Lands-croplands and intensely managed timberlands where geometric patterns dominate the landscape;

Urban-lands where commercial and residential development visually dominate the landscape.

Themes were identified for all lands within the Basin. The Basin is divided among these five themes as 7, 37, 30, 20, and 6 percent respectively. These themes are an indication of how people perceive the Basin's environments in a very general sense. The results suggest that three-fourths of the Basin is perceived as appearing natural.

¹⁶Galliano, Steven J.; Loeffler, Gary M. 1995. Place Assessment: how people define ecosystems, a background report of the scientific assessment for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. On file with: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, 112 E. Poplar, Walla Walla, WA 99362. 41 p.

Figure 31—Landscape themes assigned to regions within the Basin.

Figure 32—Current scenic integrity predicted across the Basin.

Scenic integrity or visual intactness was determined for the Basin. This measure combined vegetative structure, landform categories, and road density models to provide a broad depiction of existing scenic integrity for BLM- and FS-administered lands within the Basin (fig. 32). The five classes of Existing Scenic Integrity for those lands are:

very high-settings where the landscape is visually intact with only minute deviations;

high-settings where the landscape appears intact and human activities are not evident;

moderate-settings where the landscape appears slightly fragmented;

low-settings where the landscape appears fragmented, human activities dominate the landscape; and

very low-settings where the landscape is heavily fragmented and human activities strongly dominate the landscape.

FS- and BLM-administered lands are divided among these five classes as 42, 33, 17, 7, and less than 1 percent respectively. In addition, less than 1 percent of the area was not classified. FS- and BLM-administered lands contain much larger proportions in the highest 2 scenic integrity categories than in the two lowest categories (45 versus 12%).