

# CHAPTER 8

## TEXT CHANGES

This chapter lists the changes to the text of the draft RMP/EIS. The text was changed in response to comments from the public and from agency review. The changes that respond to public comments are identified by the alphabetical letters that identify the comments. The changes that respond to agency review are not given an identification letter.

**The specific changes in wording are highlighted in bold print.**

### TEXT CHANGES TO THE SUMMARY

The Summary of this document shows changes in bold print that respond to Comment P.

### TEXT CHANGES TO CHAPTER 1

The third decision listed in the Land Ownership and Administration section on page 8 should read, "Where and what type of access is needed to meet **resource management objectives and usage of the public lands?**"

**In response to Comment Q**, the last sentence of the planning criteria for Livestock Grazing on page 9 should read, "The plan should consider:

suitability for grazing considering distance from water, sparsity and type of vegetation, steepness of slope, and manageability (cost and control);

the impacts of livestock grazing and Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) on wildlife habitat, riparian areas, watershed, and forest regeneration;

the impacts of meeting wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, and forest product needs on grazing management;

**the costs of the improvements; and**

**the benefit to cost ratio."**

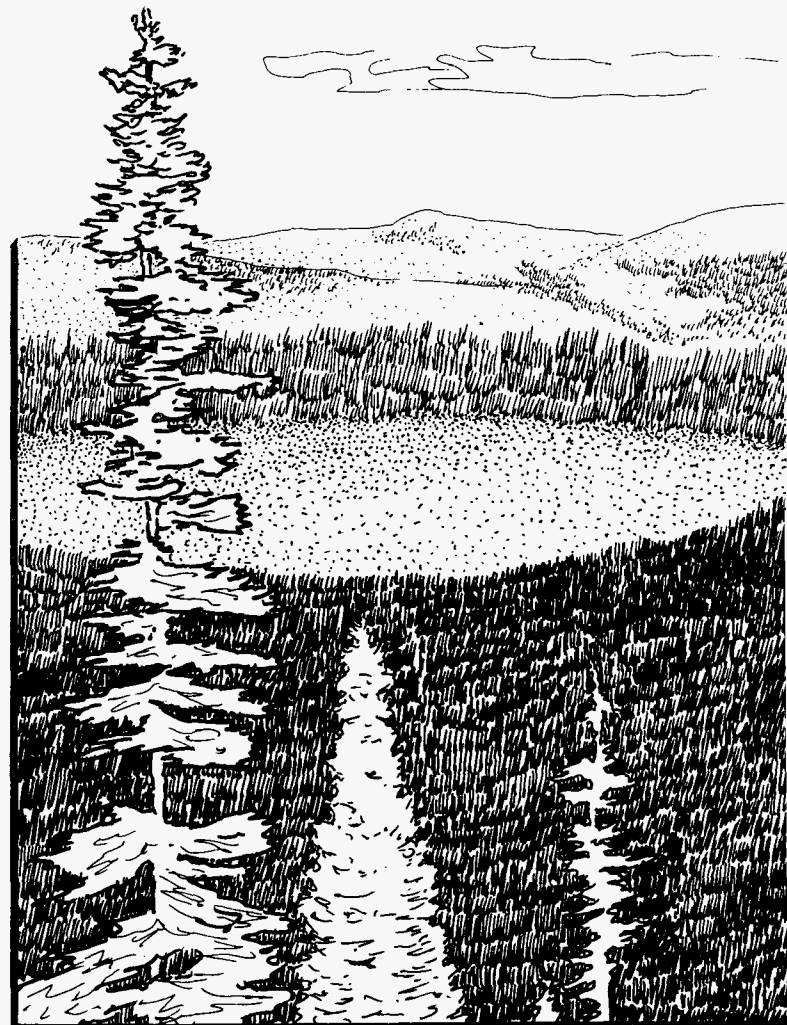
**In response to Comment O**, the planning criteria for Road Management on page 9 should read, "The plan should consider:

the availability and demand by the public for road use, **including the use of existing roads and trails;**

the cost and manageability of closing roads;

the impacts of not closing roads on maintenance costs, wildlife habitat, watershed, recreationists, vegetation (grass and trees); and

compatibility with adjoining land uses."



The planning criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment on page 10 should read as follows: "The RMP should follow the guidance outlined in the *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment Supplement to the State Director Guidance* (USDI, BLM 1984). Exchange will generally be the preferred means of land adjustment. **Any lands to be exchanged or sold must meet the criteria for disposal listed in FLPMA, Section 206 and 203(a). Prior to offering land for sale within a retention zone, a plan amendment would be completed.** The plan should consider:

the surrounding ownership, adjacent land uses, the need for public access, and the public attitude; and

the costs that have already been expended towards management (easements, line running, forest management, etc.) weighed against future management costs."

## CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

For the convenience of the reader, the proposed RMP, which includes the Standard Operating Procedures and Alternative E of the draft RMP/EIS, is reproduced below. This material is found on pages 18-25 and 41-43 of the draft RMP/EIS. **The text changes are highlighted in bold print.**

## MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES (STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES)

The following management guidance consists of Standard Operating Procedures applicable to the entire resource area. This guidance constitutes a part of the total management direction for all alternatives considered in detail. It is presented here to avoid repetition.

### Soil, Water, and Air Program

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated and monitored on a case by case basis as a part of project level planning. The level of such evaluation and monitoring will be based upon the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of soil, water, and air resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached to **proposed projects** as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with management area goals and guidelines for soil, water, and air resources. It is the policy of the Garnet Resource Area to maintain, enhance, or restore site productivity, water quality, and stream stability on all public lands.

#### Air Quality

The BLM is a party to the Montana Smoke Management Cooperative Agreement. Under this agreement, the BLM will continue to work with state and local airshed groups to minimize air quality impacts from prescribed burns and similar activities. This will be done primarily through coordination with other agencies and by burning only when there is adequate smoke ventilation within the affected airshed. The watering of roads may be required during periods of construction or heavy traffic to alleviate localized dust problems.

#### Watershed Management

Surface disturbing activities will continue to be designed so as to maintain soil productivity, minimize erosion, and maintain or improve water quality and stream channel stability. Typical watershed concerns in the resource area will continue to be addressed through application of the following guidelines.

The timber productivity capability classification system, which is based on soil survey data, habitat types, elevation, aspect, and topography, will be used to classify forest lands (see Appendix C of the draft RMP/EIS). The TPCC system considers soil compaction and erosion potential, soil climate, and soil chemical and physical properties as related to silvicultural practices.

Stream channel protection will be effected through the use of such measures as the USFS Region One *Vegetation Manipulation Guidelines*, (USDI, FS 1965b) which are designed to limit increases in stream runoff to levels compatible with the capability of the channel to handle potential changes in flow and/or increases in sediment.

Best Management Practices (BMPs), as developed through the Montana Statewide 208 Study (**Montana 1979**), will be used to control nonpoint sources of water pollution resulting from forest management practices and similar activities. General Best Management Practices applicable to the Garnet Resource Area are identified in Appendix B of the draft RMP/EIS. In addition, more specific soil unit BMPs will be utilized on a case by case basis. These BMPs, which have not yet been formalized, reflect more localized soil physical, chemical, and climate conditions. Recommendations drawn from these BMPs may include silvicultural systems to be applied, treatment of slash residual, slash disposal methods, and skidding methods, all oriented toward maintaining soil productivity on specific soil units. **(Text change is in response to Comment C.)**

Projects covered by BMPs will be monitored to assess the degree to which BMPs are being applied and the effectiveness of their application. BMPs will be monitored through stream discharge and sediment measurements. An interdisciplinary, on the ground evaluation team (soils, hydrology, forestry, and wildlife) will be used to increase the effectiveness of BMPs monitoring. In accordance with an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the State of Montana, an annual report will be made to the Montana Water Quality Bureau concerning BMPs application and effectiveness.

For timber sale planning, soils information, generally in the form of a soils map accompanied by a physical and chemical properties table, will be used to define soil capabilities and to recommend soil BMPs and mitigating measures. Hydrology information, where available, will be used to describe existing water quality and quantity; such information will also be used as a reference point for future monitoring of hydrologic conditions.

Corrective measures will be applied where unsatisfactory watershed conditions are identified. Such measures may be implemented through project-level plans (watershed, habitat, allotment, or compartment management plans); such measures may also be implemented through stipulations attached to permits, leases, and other authorizations.

Management activities in riparian zones generally will be designed to maintain or, where possible, improve riparian habitat condition. Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable. Prescribed fire will not be used within 75 feet of stream channels.

## Energy and Minerals Program

Public lands generally will remain available for the exploration, development, and production of energy and mineral resources; such activities will be regulated to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of surface resource values to the extent practicable. Such activities will also be guided by management area goals and guidelines (see Appendix A of the draft RMP/EIS).

Areas of federal subsurface ownership underlying private land also will generally remain available for energy and mineral exploration and development. Surface owners must be consulted by claimants/lessees. Proposed activities will be reviewed and authorized on a case by case basis.

### Locatable Minerals

All public land is open to mineral entry and development except where withdrawn to protect other resource values and uses. Mining activities on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of surface resources and to ensure reasonable reclamation of disturbed sites. Standard procedures used in processing notices and plans of operations under the 3809 Regulations are summarized in Appendix D of the draft RMP/EIS.

Validity examinations may be provided under the following conditions:

- where a mineral patent application has been filed and a field examination is required to verify the validity of the claim(s);

- where there is a conflict with a disposal application, and it is deemed in the public interest to do so, or where the statute authorizing the disposal requires clearance of any encumbrance;

- where the land is needed for a federal program; or

- where a mining claim is located under the guise of the mining law and flagrant unauthorized use of the land or mineral resource is occurring.

Public land will be opened to mineral entry where mineral withdrawals are revoked.

### Oil and Gas Leasing

All public land is available for oil and gas leasing, with the exception of land recommended for wilderness designation.

Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will continue to be based on application of the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist and the leasing guidelines contained in the Butte District Oil and Gas

Leasing Environmental Assessment (issued September 1981). Standard and special stipulations and the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist are included in Appendix E of the draft RMP/EIS.

All oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations attached. Special stipulations will be attached where needed to protect seasonal wildlife habitat and/or other sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect important surface values, stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy will be attached.

Oil and gas leasing guidance identified in this plan will apply only to leases processed after RMP approval. Existing leases will run their full term with only those stipulations attached at the time of lease issuance. Leases included in an operating unit or any future unit where production is established will remain unaffected by new stipulations as long as production continues or until leases are terminated.

### Phosphate, Geothermal, and Other Leasables

Lease applications will continue to be processed as received. Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will be based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

### Common Variety Mineral Materials

Applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be attached based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

## Lands Program

### Land Ownership Adjustments

The supplement to the State Director Guidance on *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment* (USDI, BLM 1984) provides criteria for use in categorizing public land for retention or adjustment, and for identifying acquisition priorities. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustment in the resource area will be made based largely on the following criteria derived from the supplement to State Director Guidance. This list is not considered all-inclusive, but represents the major factors affecting land adjustment in the Garnet Resource Area.

**Areas of National Significance.** Areas that have national environmental significance include wilderness, wilderness study areas, former wilderness study areas being studied for protective management, ACECs, and wetlands and riparian areas under Executive Order 11990. Areas that have national cultural and recreational significance include lands nominated or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or designated as National Scenic and Historic Trails.

**Areas Containing Important Features.** Areas that have important wildlife features include threatened and endangered species habitat, prime fisheries habitat, big game seasonal habitat, waterfowl and upland game bird habitat, and habitat for sensitive species including raptors and other nongame species.

Areas that have important recreational and cultural features include hunting and fishing sites, snowmobile trails, and areas that contribute significantly to the interpretive potential of cultural resources already in public ownership. Areas that have important watershed features include strategic tracts along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and springs.

**Areas Important to BLM Programs.** These areas include tracts of public land that are consolidated enough to make management of their resources cost effective, and have physical and legal access. Access generally should allow for public use but, at the least, should allow administrative access to manage the resources. **Access to private lands will not be restricted without coordinating first with the private landowner.** Areas usually contain a combination of multiple use values and have characteristics that facilitate BLM priorities on the national, state, and local level. Areas may have improvements that represent public investments; be encumbered by R&PP leases, withdrawals, mining claims, etc.; or be managed by cooperative agreements with other agencies. (Text change is in response to Comment K.)

**Areas Important to the Economy.** These areas include tracts having mineral potential and lands that contribute significantly to the stability of the local economy by virtue of federal ownership.

The land ownership adjustment criteria identified above will be considered in land reports and environmental analyses prepared for specific adjustment proposals.

Public land within retention areas (see the Land Pattern Adjustment map in the map packet) generally will remain in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where improved management efficiency would result. Minor adjustments involving exchanges or sales may be permitted based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.

Public land outside of retention areas may have potential for removal from BLM administration through exchanges or sales. Some of these lands may be retained in public ownership based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria. In addition, BLM will respond to land adjustment proposals from the public. Exchanges will generally be preferred to sale. Public land identified for exchange or sale must meet the disposal criteria in *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment Supplement to State Director Guidance* (USDI, BLM 1984) and in Sections 203 and 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. No tracts will be exchanged or sold without proper environmental documentation and the required notification in the Federal Register and local newspapers.

Land to be acquired by BLM through exchange ordinarily must be located in retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should facilitate access to public land and resources, maintain or enhance important public values and uses, maintain or enhance local social and economic values, or facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Garnet RMP.

Consolidation of surface and subsurface ownership should be accomplished whenever possible to improve resource management opportunities and development potential.

#### Unauthorized Use

Unauthorized uses of public land will be resolved either through termination, authorization by lease or permit, or sale. Decisions will be based on the type and significance of improvements involved; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and whether the unauthorized use is intentional or unintentional.

#### Withdrawals

Current BLM policy is to minimize the acreage of public land withdrawn from mining and mineral leasing and, where applicable, to replace existing withdrawals with rights-of-way, leases, permits, or cooperative agreements.

At the present time, 1,800 acres are effectively withdrawn from mining, mineral leasing, and/or sale, location, and entry under the public land laws (see Table 2-2 on page 20 of the draft RMP/EIS).

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals will remain in effect unless modified or revoked as a result of the withdrawal review process. All withdrawals under the Classification and Multiple Use Act and the Recreation and Public Purposes Act will be recommended for revocation. However, for important historic and cultural sites (MA 11), such recommendations will be contingent upon withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

As provided in Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act and subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in lands designated as wilderness would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

#### Utility and Transportation Corridors

Public land within identified exclusion areas will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Public land within avoidance areas ordinarily will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Exceptions may be permitted based on type of and need for facility proposed; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and availability of alternatives and/or mitigating measures.

All other public land usually is available for development of utility and transportation corridors. Exceptions will be based on consideration of the criteria identified above.

## Recreation Program

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Recreation areas receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected.

Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. However, no such developments are envisioned during the life of this plan. Therefore management will be limited to protecting the recreation potential of undeveloped sites.

Recreation activity plans have been or will be prepared for the following Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs): Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail, Lewis and Clark Trail and Blackfoot River, Garnet Ghost Town, Blackfoot Special Management Area, Clark Fork River, and **designated wilderness areas**.

These plans will provide more specific management guidance for recreation and other resources in each SRMA, consistent with the RMP. SRMAs are identified on the basis of high recreation use, the significance of recreation resources regionally and nationally, and the need to resolve conflicts in resource management or use.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis as a part of project and activity planning. Such evaluations will consider the significance of the proposed action and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of the developments with recreation management objectives.

Recreation special use permits will be evaluated and approved on a case by case basis. This includes permits for commercial use, competitive events, and group activities such as trail rides, bicycle tours, and ORV events. No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service permits.

### Travel Planning and Motorized Vehicle Use

All public land will be designated as either open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use under authority of Executive Order 11644.

All existing road and area closures generally will remain in effect except for minor adjustments in the Chamberlain Creek drainage. New roads constructed in the future generally will be closed to motorized public use following completion of planned management activities. Cooperative closures involving adjoining landowners will be pursued in the Tenmile, Klondike, Warm Springs Creek, and Pearson Creek areas.

Public land within areas identified as limited to motorized vehicle use generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be restricted seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas identified as closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use. Exceptions may be allowed in wilderness study areas based on application of the Interim Management Policy.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas based on consideration of the following criteria:

- the need to promote user enjoyment and minimize use conflicts;
- the need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, road beds, or other resource values;
- the need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitat;
- the need to promote user safety; and
- the need to cooperate with adjoining landowners.

### Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project plans using the VRM guidelines described in Appendix F of the draft RMP/EIS. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on visual resources.

Areas recommended for or designated as wilderness (MA 8) will be subject to Class I VRM guidelines. Certain lands generally within riparian zones, recreation or cultural sites, special management areas, and visual corridors (MA 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12) will be subject to Class II or III VRM guidelines. All other public land will be subject to Class III, IV, or V VRM guidelines, as previously mapped and referenced in the Garnet Management Situation Analysis. The precise location of VRM Classes II through V may be delineated in more detail during project or activity planning, based on the standard criteria for evaluating scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zones.

### Cultural Resources

Cultural resource management will continue to focus on Garnet Ghost Town. This will include conducting historical research, recording architectural features, and stabilizing deteriorating structures. Cooperative management with the Garnet Preservation Association will continue with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan.

Emphasis will also be placed on the interpretation of key sites near Garnet, including Reynolds City, Beartown, Springtown, Summit Cabin, and Coloma; and at Blackfoot City.

On the remainder of the resource area, cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated as part of project level planning in compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on cultural resources.

Standard Operating Procedures for cultural resource management are summarized below and are described in more detail in Appendix G of the draft RMP/EIS:

Cultural resource inventories will be completed prior to any ground disturbing activity. Cultural resources will not be disturbed until evaluated by the District Manager or an authorized representative in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer to determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Consultation will also include appropriate representative(s) of Native American groups or organizations for cultural resources valuable for ceremonial, religious, or other sociocultural purposes.

Cultural resource sites generally will be protected from disturbance through project design and location. If sites are found to be eligible for the National Register(s) and cannot be avoided, a determination of the effect of the project on the site(s), including appropriate mitigating measures, will be made in consultation with the Montana Historic Preservation Officer and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No action affecting such sites will be permitted until the Advisory Council has had an opportunity to comment.

Adverse effects generally will be mitigated either through redesign of the proposed project so as to avoid the site or through complete excavation or other information recovery techniques. A memorandum of understanding will be developed with the Advisory Council to establish an acceptable level of mitigation for impacts on cultural resources when such impacts can not be avoided.

To provide for consideration of cultural resources not evident during inventories, a stipulation will be attached to each surface disturbing project requiring the operator to temporarily suspend work if buried cultural remains are encountered. The District Manager or an authorized representative will then determine the action necessary for protection or salvage of the discovery.

#### **Wilderness Resources**

The Interim Management Policy will continue to be applied to all wilderness study areas identified under Section 603 of FLPMA, and to any areas studied under Section 202 of FLPMA and recommended as

suitable for wilderness designation, until such areas are reviewed and acted upon by Congress. Other 202 WSAs will be managed in accordance with applicable guidance provided by this RMP.

Public land within areas added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in compliance with the Wilderness Management Policy. Site-specific wilderness management plans will be developed for such areas.

Areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this resource management plan.

#### **Forestry Program**

Although the annual harvest varies, each alternative will maintain a timber sale program. The development of the sale program will be the same for all alternatives. The CFL is divided into compartments which are geographic units of roughly 3,000 acres. The TPCC suitable CFL in each compartment is further divided into stands. Each stand is analyzed through the operations inventory for stocking, condition, age, and volume, and is given a priority for treatment. In addition to the stand analysis, a transportation system is developed for each compartment.

To develop a sale, a number of high priority stands are selected and a timber sale plan and environmental analysis is prepared and reviewed with an interdisciplinary team. These stands, after they are harvested or treated, are then monitored to determine how successful the treatment was in obtaining the silvicultural objectives of the prescription and meeting the goals and objectives of the specific management areas for these stands.

The timber management program is monitored on a stand basis. As stands are inventoried through the operations inventory a management program is prepared for the stand through rotation. Each step or activity in the management progression for the stand is monitored and evaluated to determine the timing for the next treatment. The stand development and the management objective must be reached before the next treatment phase is initiated.

Timber sale contracts are prepared for each sale. These contracts contain a wide range of standard clauses outlining the purchasers obligations for fire protection, watershed, soil protection, and road construction and maintenance. In addition to the standard clauses each contract will contain specific instructions on the location and manner in which the timber is to be harvested, location of required roads and construction specification for each road, and requirements for slash disposal, site preparation, timber stand improvement, regeneration, and performance bonds.

A typical monitoring sequence for a stand begins with a survival survey one-year after planting, and stocking surveys at three and five years to determine

if the new stand meets BLM stocking standards. Additional surveys occur at age 20 to establish need for precommercial thinning; at years 40, 60, and 80 to determine suitability for commercial thinning; and at age 100 to prepare a prescription for harvest.

Yearly extensive detection surveys are made over all the forest land to monitor insect and disease trends. Funds are available for insect and disease control projects where control can occur through some silvicultural action.

## Range Program

### Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments have been assigned to one of three management categories based on present resource conditions and the potential for improvement (see Appendix H of the draft RMP/EIS). The M allotments generally will be managed to maintain current resource conditions; I allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and C allotments generally will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration.

### Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Allotment management plans generally will describe in detail the types of changes needed in an allotment and establish a schedule for implementation. Such plans will be based upon approved management objectives and guidelines established through the RMP process. Proposed changes in allotment management will be subject to the environmental review process, and such proposals will be modified or rejected when needed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Existing AMPs will be reviewed to assure consistency with RMP objectives and guidelines; wildlife and riparian habitat management objectives and forest regeneration considerations will be incorporated into existing AMPs as needed. The following sections contain discussions of changes likely to be recommended in an allotment management plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

**Livestock Use Adjustments.** Livestock use adjustments are most often made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock grazing an allotment, the season of use, the stocking rate, or the pattern of grazing. For each of the five alternatives presented in this RMP, target stocking rates have been set for each allotment (refer to Appendix I of the draft RMP/EIS). While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the I allotments, use adjustments are permitted for allotments in categories C and M.

In reviewing the target stocking rate figures and other recommended changes, it is emphasized that the target AUM figures are not final stocking rates. Rather, all livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When adjustments are made through mu-

tual agreement, they may be implemented once the Rangeland Program Summary has been through a public review period. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and monitoring of resource conditions.

Current BLM policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program to verify the need for livestock adjustments proposed on the basis of one-time inventory data. Monitoring will also measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and evaluate the effectiveness of these management practices in meeting stated objectives.

The federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments implemented by decision (43 CFR 4110.3). These regulations provide guidance for the allocation of additional forage on a temporary and a permanent basis, as well as guidance for reducing the livestock grazing capacity due to a decrease in available forage. Permanent increases in the allocation of livestock forage or suspension of preference will generally be implemented over a five-year period but can be implemented in less than five years when agreement between the BLM and affected interests is reached to shorten the time span, or when a shorter period is necessary to protect public lands due to conditions created by such factors as fire, drought, or insect infestations, and a final decision is issued and placed in full force and effect under 4160.3(C) of this title.

**Range Improvements and Treatments.** Range improvements and treatments will be implemented under all alternatives. Typical range improvements and treatments and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix J of the draft RMP/EIS. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, and on interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions and alternatives.

Weed control efforts on public lands will be designed to prevent the invasion of noxious weeds into areas presently free of weeds. Target weeds will include knapweed, leafy spurge, and musk thistle. Priority will be placed on control efforts along primary public access roads into public lands, control of spot infestations, and cooperation with adjoining landowners in the control of large weed infestations. **Biological control will be initiated on selected sites as control organisms are developed and proven as a viable method of weed control.**

Allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will go to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Other factors to be considered include resource needs,

public participation, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability. **Range improvements will occur in the I and M allotments. Appendix H of the draft RMP/EIS describes the criteria used to determine I, M, or C allotment categories and the general reasons warranting the expenditure of funds. (Text change is in response to Comment P.)**

**Grazing Systems.** Grazing systems will be used in all alternatives. The type of system selected for each AMP will be based on consideration of the following factors: allotment specific management objectives; resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability; operator needs; and implementation costs.

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix K of the draft RMP/EIS.

**Unleased Tracts.** Unleased tracts will remain available for leasing, as provided for in the BLM grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110 and 4130), unless the RMP indicates no grazing will be allowed. Lands to be excluded from grazing may be made available for livestock use on a temporary, nonrenewable basis at the discretion of the Area Manager if such use would meet management goals and objectives for the area.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Program

### General

Wildlife and fish habitat will be evaluated on an individual basis as a part of project level planning. Each evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed action and the magnitude of impacts to wildlife habitat. Appropriate stipulations or restrictions will be used to mitigate these impacts.

Habitat improvement and maintenance projects will be implemented where needed to stabilize or improve habitat conditions. These projects will be identified through coordinated resource activity plans.

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

No activities will be permitted in habitat for threatened and endangered species that would jeopardize continued species existence. Whenever possible, management activities in threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will be consulted prior to actions that may affect threatened and endangered habitat. Whenever the BLM biological assessment process determines such habitat may be affected, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated as per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Inventory and monitoring of occupied and potential threatened and endangered habitat will continue on the resource area.

## Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Road and area closures will be pursued for wildlife security and other resource values. Wildlife habitat goals and objectives will be included in all resource activity plans and projects that could affect wildlife habitat.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) will be consulted prior to vegetative manipulation projects in accordance with Supplement 1 of the Master Memorandum of Understanding, 1977. In addition, MDFWP will be consulted on timber harvest and timber stand improvement projects. All animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MDFWP, and in the case of aerial gunning requests, with the Montana Department of Livestock.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Water crossings will be designed and installed to minimize sediment production and maintain adequate fish passage. Riparian habitat management needs will be considered when developing grazing systems, locating roads, and during layout of timber management activities.

Where applicable, the Montana Cooperative Elk Logging Study recommendations (USDA, FS 1982) including any future revisions will be followed (see Appendix S of the draft RMP/EIS). Also, where applicable, the recommendations of the **Cooperative Fish Management Plan for Public Lands in Montana (MDFWP; USDI, BLM 1984)** will be followed. (Text change is in response to Comment R.)

The resource area snag management policy will be followed.

## Cadastral Survey Program

Cadastral surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

## Fire Program

The primary fire protection objectives will be to prevent, detect, suppress, and monitor all fires on BLM lands. These objectives may be accomplished through contract with the Montana Department of State Lands.

A fire management plan will be prepared to establish areas in which the appropriate suppression action of control or confinement will be implemented for all fire starts. The plan may also identify areas and conditions where the use of heavy equipment is restricted or prohibited. Approval of the fire management plan will be based on consideration of values at risk; fire



behavior; fire occurrence; beneficial fire effects, including but not limited to a reduction in fuel loading; fire suppression costs; and consistency with other agency plans and policies.

## Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance Program

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions. Acquiring access or building roads to tracts outside the retention zones may be required for resource management activities such as timber sales.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on consideration of resource management needs; user safety; impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery; and construction and maintenance costs.

## ALTERNATIVE E (PREFERRED)

Alternative E incorporates portions of the other four alternatives and generally represents a middle-ground approach to issue resolution. This alternative balances competing demands by making public lands available for a wide variety of resource uses while protecting and enhancing important and sensitive environmental values. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-10 on page 41 of the draft RMP/EIS and illustrated on the Alternative E Management Areas map in the map packet of the draft RMP/EIS.

The response to each issue and needed decision is based on the full range of resource potentials and conditions as well as legal and policy requirements and social and economic considerations.

## Renewable Resources

Under Alternative E, 105,020 acres of CFL would be available for harvest. This represents 93 percent of the total CFL. A total of 1,352 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 7,030 mbf of timber per year. There would be 10.5 miles of road construction each year.

Most of the CFL acreage that would be set aside from harvest is located within the Wales Creek, upper Gallagher Creek, and Cottonwood Meadows areas where

6,620 acres of CFL would be unavailable for harvest because of special management considerations. A total of 2,080 acres of CFL would be set aside or allocated to restrictive timber management to protect or maintain riparian and watershed values elsewhere in the resource area. An additional 280 acres of CFL would be set aside within one area recommended for wilderness designation, and 400 acres would be set aside within mineral production areas. A total of 62,700 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive timber management primarily to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat values.

The level of forest development work accomplished with appropriated funds would remain low and would include 100 acres of tree planting and 40 acres of thinning annually. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 5,020 acres primarily within developed and potential recreation sites and adjacent to stream channels. Pesticide application would be prohibited within riparian areas.

A total of 33,770 acres would not be leased for livestock grazing (see Table 2-11 on page 41 of the draft RMP/EIS). These include 27,200 acres currently closed, and additional acreage in the Elk Creek, Pearson Creek, and Quigg Peak areas. A total of 111,890 acres would remain available for livestock use. The total authorized livestock use would increase to 6,245 AUMs or 5 percent above current licensed use.

Target stocking levels for individual allotments are indicated in Appendix I of the draft RMP/EIS. No allotments would be adjusted downward. Target stocking levels for allotments to be adjusted upward would be based on current grazing capacity estimates, considering vegetative condition ratings and applicable SCS production estimates.

Nine of the ten existing AMP allotments would remain under intensive grazing management. One existing AMP allotment, Devil Mountain (7201), would be placed under custodial management since the allotment boundaries have been modified to exclude livestock use from much of the original AMP area, and resource conditions are satisfactory on the remaining grazed acreage.

In addition, 11 other allotments would be placed under intensive management (see Table 2-12). Thus, a total of 83,263 acres would be affected by intensive grazing management. All new AMPs would be based on allotment specific multiple use management objectives addressing identified resource opportunities and conflicts. Future management actions would be designed to meet these objectives. Management opportunities and objectives for I allotments and implementation priorities are identified in Appendix M of the draft RMP/EIS.

Management changes for proposed AMP allotments would include the implementation of grazing systems and an increase in resource monitoring. Range improvements and treatments that would be needed to fully implement existing and proposed AMP allotments include 53 miles of fence, 19 cattleguards,

**TABLE 2-12**  
**NEW AMP ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED**  
**UNDER ALTERNATIVE E**

Allotment Number and Name	BLM* Acreage
7101 Bonita-Clinton-Potomac	12,143
7102 Weaver	4,410
7104 Lund #1	8,942
7105 McMahan	1,460
7106 Iverson	3,937
7108 Lund #2	3,518
7109 Semenza #1	5,908
7219 Mannix	2,000
7221 Murphy	1,103
7312 H. Luthje	2,866
7324 Collins #2	1,362
Total Acreage	47,649

\*Text change is in response to Comment P.

32 spring developments, 3 miles of pipeline, and 300 acres of weed control. (Text change is in response to Comment P.)

### Special Attention Resources

The 520-acre Quigg West WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation contingent on the U.S. Forest Service wilderness recommendation for Quigg. Timber harvest, road construction, mineral entry, mineral leasing, and motorized vehicle use would be prohibited. A wilderness management plan would be prepared in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on individual WSA Alternative maps.

Twenty acres in Rattler Gulch would be designated as an ACEC for its educational value and withdrawn from mineral entry as a means of protecting a unique limestone feature from possible mineral development.

A total of 3,500 acres would be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values. All other riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability.

A total of 80,450 acres would be managed primarily to emphasize big game habitat including elk summer and fall habitat components, big game summer and fall range, and big game winter range while providing for timber harvest. These areas are in addition to the 8,660 acres allocated to wilderness and other special management where management emphasis would include the protection and enhancement of

wildlife habitat values. An additional 5,800 acres of noncommercial forest and TPCC withdrawn commercial forest land would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use.

### Nonrenewable Resources

Under Alternative E, 205,066 acres of federal minerals in the resource area would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 84,076 acres would be leased with special stipulations, and 8,180 acres would not be available for surface occupancy. All land recommended for wilderness designation would be closed to oil and gas leasing pending congressional action. Areas affected by seasonal restriction and stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy consist largely of special management areas and existing and potential road closure areas where wildlife habitat values are important.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, would remain in effect under this alternative. All other withdrawals would be recommended for revocation. Important cultural and historic sites, 160 acres, and 20 acres proposed for ACEC designation would be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA. All land recommended for wilderness designation would be withdrawn under Section 4(c)(3) of the Wilderness Act.

### Land Ownership and Administration

A number of retention zones would be identified, where public lands generally will be retained in public ownership (see Proposed Retention Zones map in map packet of the draft RMP/EIS). About 126,872 acres would be located within retention zones. All other public lands would be considered for either retention or disposal through transfer, exchange, or sale. The preferred method for disposal would be to exchange for lands within a retention zone.

A total of 127,500 acres would be available for further consideration and possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. About 17,620 acres associated with riparian areas, important recreation, historic and cultural sites, and other special management areas would be identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged. All land recommended for wilderness and ACEC designation would be excluded from corridor development.

The level of public and administrative access to public lands would increase. New public access would be sought for an additional 9,500 acres, and administrative access would be sought for an additional 8,150 acres. A total of 8,090 acres would remain legally inaccessible for either public or administrative purposes.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, will remain in effect. Such withdrawals generally are located at existing and potential powersites and power projects along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers. All other withdrawals under the R&PP and the C&MU will be recommended for revocation. A total of 160 acres associated with important cultural and historic sites (MA 11) will be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

## Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Under Alternative E, 131,919 acres would be available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation. The restrictions generally would take the form of seasonal closures and/or limiting use to specific roads and trails. A total of 5,040 acres in the Ram Mountain and Karshaw Mountain areas are roaded but would not be available for motorized recreation. The remaining 8,660 acres would be available for roadless, nonmotorized recreation; most of this acreage is located within areas recommended for wilderness designation or requiring other forms of special management.

A total of 41 developed and undeveloped recreation sites would be identified primarily for the protection of their recreation values. These are generally located near water and/or road closure gates. The 11 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and an effort would be made to establish four additional areas.

Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Efforts would be made to acquire additional public access to key tracts along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

A total of 7,850 acres would be managed with primary emphasis on maintaining scenic quality (MA 12) including lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek.

## TEXT CHANGES TO THE ALTERNATIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The first sentence of the third paragraph in the Renewable Resources section on pages 26, 32, 34, and 36 should read, "The level of **forest development work accomplished with appropriated funds** would remain low and would include 100 acres of tree planting and 40 acres of thinning annually."

The last sentence of the third paragraph in the Renewable Resources section on pages 26, 34, and 36 should read, "Pesticide use would be prohibited within riparian areas."

The last sentence of the second paragraph of the Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources on pages 32, 35, and 40 should read, "The 11 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and 4 additional areas would be pursued."

Table 2-13 on page 44 of the draft RMP/EIS should read as Table S-1 of this document.

In Table 2-17 on page 48, the last part of the paragraph on Air Quality in all alternatives should read, "slash burning in the resource area will cause a **temporary** decrease in localized air quality." The second sentence in the Soil and Water section in Alternative C should read, "Road construction, which will **decrease** to 9.0 miles per year, will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams."

In Table 2-17 on page 49, the second sentence in the Lands section for Alternatives B, C, D, and E should read, "Providing **public** access to an additional 9,500 acres **and administrative access to an additional 8,150 acres** of public land allows greater public use and improved management."



In Table 2-17 on page 50, the following should be added to the Visual section of Alternative B. **Visual quality will not be maintained along the Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek.**

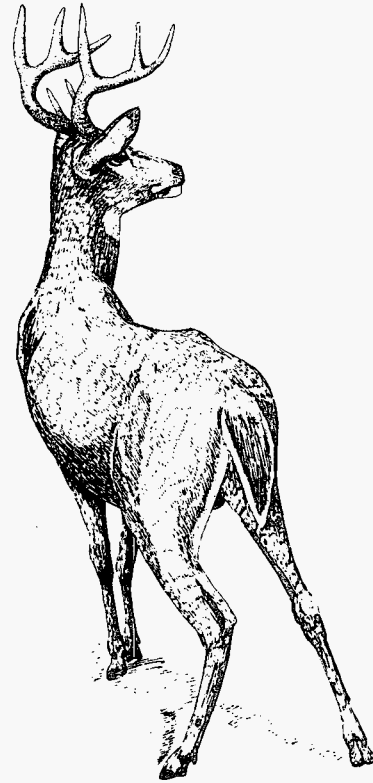
In Table 2-17 on page 54 in the first paragraph of the Wildlife and Fisheries section of all alternatives, the term “security cover” should be **security areas.**

In Table 2-17 on page 55, the fifth sentence in the Socioeconomic section of Alternatives C and D and the fourth sentence of Alternative E should read, “Land adjustments would have similar impacts as in Alternative B **for PILT payments.**”

The second sentence of the third paragraph in the Renewable Resources section on page 56 should read, “Pesticide use would be prohibited within riparian areas.”

The last sentence of the third paragraph in the Land Ownership and Administration section on page 58 should read, “Administrative access (not public access) to accomplish BLM objectives is proposed for **an additional 8,150 acres.**”

The third sentence of the second paragraph of the Monitoring and Evaluation section on page 60 should read, “Monitoring efforts will focus on allotments in the **I and M categories.**”



**TEXT CHANGES TO CHAPTER 3**

The reference to Table 3-2 in the Surface Water section on page 63 should become **Table 3-2a.** Table 3-2 on page 66 should become **Table 3-2a.**

The following changes should be made to footnote 5 on page 66.

	<b>GRANODIORITE BASINS</b>	<b>HARD SEDIMENT BASINS (ARGILLITE, QUARTZITES, LIMESTONE)</b>	<b>TERTIARY VOLCANIC BASINS</b>
High sediment producing areas	100 t/sq mi/yr	39 t/sq mi/yr	42 t/sq mi/yr
Normal sediment producing areas	25 t/sq mi/yr	10 t/sq mi/yr	11 t/sq mi/yr
Low sediment producing areas	10 t/sq mi/yr	4 t/sq mi/yr	4 t/sq mi/yr

**In response to Comment B**, the following should be added to the Surface Water section on page 63. The **problem areas and proposed actions are listed in Table 3-2b.**

**TABLE 3-2b**  
**STREAMS HAVING AREAS OF DECREASED WATER QUALITY**

Site	Proposed Action
Black Bear Creek	Control livestock, improve road drainages, reseed exposed soil, relocate the road.
Braziel Creek	Develop activity plan to rehabilitate the site in 1987.
Keno Creek	Redesign and reconstruct road drainage (work in progress).
Marcum Mountain	Install check dams to control sediment production (work in progress).
McElwain Creek	Install check dams to control sediment production (work in progress).
Streamside riparian	Expand use of AMPs to reduce stream impacts.
Active mining areas	Resolve water quality problems through use of 3809 Regulations and coordination with the State Water Quality Bureau.

**In response to Comments E, F, G, and H**, the Geology section on page 67 should read as follows.

“The geology of the Garnet Resource Area is very diverse with all three categories of rocks present: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. The rock types range in age from the late Precambrian Belt **supergroup** sediments (600 to 1,600 million years ago), to the very recent (ten thousand years ago and less).

“Igneous rocks such as basalt, andesite, and rhyolite are found in the eastern part of the Garnet Range and in upper Willow Creek. As a result of granitic intrusions, metamorphic rocks such as marble, hornfels, and garnetite can be found around the mining areas of Garnet, Coloma, Ashby, and Wallace creeks; Blackfoot City; Philipsburg; Gold Creek; upper Willow Creek; Sluice Gulch; Top O’Deep; and Henderson Gulch. Sedimentary rocks such as limestone, argillite, dolomite, quartzite, shale, **and sandstone** can be found generally throughout the resource area.

“Most of the **public lands in the** resource area were not directly affected by glacial activity. However, glacial till can be found in moraines in Fred Burr and upper Willow creeks. Clay sediments were deposited in the upper Willow Creek area by a glacial lake. In the Drummond area, traces of ancient shorelines of glacial Lake Missoula are visible. Detailed information on the geologic structure of the Garnet Resource Area is contained in two surveys, Morrison-Maierle 1978 and Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc. 1983.”

The third sentence in the second paragraph of the Oil and Gas section on page 67 should read, “Exploratory drilling has recently started within the northwest boundary of the GRA **as well as locations on private land near Drummond and Deer Lodge.**”

**In response to Comment D**, the second sentence of the first paragraph of the Other Geologic Resources section on page 67 should read, “Barite occurs in vein deposits **and is actively mined** in the Coloma/Washoe Creek area and in the North Fork of Elk Creek.”

**In response to Comment J**, the footnote to Table 3-4 on page 71 should read, “Rating is established from industry data gathered on GEM forms and from BLM inventory data.

**“Low Potential: Very few geologic characteristics favorable for the accumulation of a given resource are known to be present.**

**Medium Potential: Some geologic characteristics are present that are favorable for the accumulation of a given resource.**

**High Potential: Many geologic features are present that indicate the occurrence of a given resource.”**

The third sentence of the third paragraph of the Recreation Resources section on page 74 should read, "Except for wilderness study areas, they also require recreation activity plans to provide specific management guidance for recreation and other resources."

In response to Comment L, the following addition should be made to the first paragraph of the Lewis and Clark Trail, Blackfoot River section on page 76. **Congress has designated the Lewis and Clark Trail as a National Historic Trail.**

The first paragraph of the Walk-in Hunting Areas section on page 77 should read as follows.

"A cooperative management effort between the BLM, private landowners, and MDFWP to establish walk-in hunting areas began in 1974. Ten walk-in hunting areas similar to the Blackfoot Special Management Area were created totalling **86,140** acres. Access is controlled by gates on existing roads."

The West Fork Buttes walk-in hunting area should be eliminated from Table 3-9 on page 79. The total acreage then becomes **128,140** and the total BLM acreage becomes **54,770**.

A new paragraph should be inserted after the first paragraph of the Cultural Resources section on page 80. **A Class I cultural resource inventory, consisting of a literature search, has been completed for the public lands. The literature search helped identify known sites for further evaluation and define future inventory needs.**

In response to Comment N, the first sentence of the third paragraph of the Wilderness Opportunities section on page 80 should read, "About **26** percent of the acreage still being studied in Montana is on BLM-administered land."

In response to Comment N, Table 3-12 on page 81 should read as follows.

**TABLE 3-12  
REGIONAL WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES**

State	Designated Wilderness Areas		Presidentially Endorsed Areas			Further Study Areas			
	Agency	Number of Areas	Acres	Agency	Number of Areas	Acres	Agency	Number of Areas	Acres
Montana	FS	12	3,333,594	NPS	2	1,084,660	FS	180	5,611,789
	FWS	3	64,997	FWS	15	161,480	BLM	35	438,801
	BLM	1	6,000				NPS	1	7,645
Idaho	FS	5	2,944,435	FS	17	1,240,424	FS	11	571,931
	NPS	1	43,243				BLM	54	1,326,799
Wyoming	FS	6	2,193,750	FS	17	627,100	FS	7	414,870
				NPS	2	1,848,744	BLM	36	565,260

BLM — Bureau of Land Management  
 FS — Forest Service  
 FWS — Fish and Wildlife Service  
 NPS — National Park Service

## TEXT CHANGES TO CHAPTER 4

The following should be added to the fourth paragraph of the Analysis Assumptions section on page 103. **Section 603 wilderness study areas will remain under Interim Wilderness Management for up to half the life of the RMP because of the review process. The President has until 1991 to make a recommendation for designation or nondesignation to Congress. There is no set schedule for Congress to act on the recommendation.**

**In response to Comment P, the last paragraph of Analysis Assumptions and Table 4-2 on page 104 will read as follows.**

**Project costs include the initial cost of planned improvements and their maintenance costs over a 10-year period; replacement cost of one-half the existing springs, fences, and pipelines; initial application for weed control and 2 maintenance applications; and the maintenance of existing projects over a 20-year period. All proposed projects have a serviceable life longer than the 20-year planning period. Therefore, no replacement costs are included for proposed projects. Table 4-2 lists the values used in calculating the costs.**

**TABLE 4-2  
COSTS OF BUILDING, MAINTAINING, AND  
REPLACING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>Improvement Or Treatment</b>	<b>Initial Or Replacement Cost<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Annual Maintenance Cost</b>
Fence	\$4,000/mile	\$175/mile
Pipeline	\$7,000/mile	\$ 32/mile
Spring	\$2,500/each	\$ 60/each
Cattleguard	\$2,000/each	\$ 24/each
Weed Control	\$ 17/acre	<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cost includes material and labor. Replacement is needed every 20 years.

<sup>2</sup> **Maintenance on weed control acres will be done twice in the 20-year period.**

Table 4-3 on pages 106-113 should be changed as previously indicated for Table 2-17 on pages 48-55 as these two tables are identical.

The first sentence of the second paragraph of the Impacts on Recreation Resources section on page 115 should read, "The 11 existing walk-in hunting areas are managed under Standard Operating Procedures and would not be significantly impacted."

**In response to Comment P, the second paragraph in the Impacts on Range Resources section on page 118 should read as follows.**

**"Range improvement costs on proposed projects for Alternative A will total approximately \$181,900 for material and labor. Table 4-4 summarizes the proposed range improvements. Maintenance on the existing range improvements are estimated to cost \$299,210 for the 20-year period and \$55,820 for expected maintenance of proposed improvements."**

**In response to Comment P, Table 4-4 should read as follows.**

**TABLE 4-4  
PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND  
COST DATA FOR ALTERNATIVE A**

<b>IMPROVEMENT/ TREATMENT</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>COST*</b>
Weed Control	Acres	200	\$ 3,400
Fences	Miles	22	<b>\$88,000</b>
Cattleguard	Each	7	<b>\$14,000</b>
Springs	Each	25	\$62,500
Pipeline	Miles	2	<b>\$14,000</b>

\*Cost data over 20-year period includes materials and labor.

**In response to Comment P, the last sentence of the first paragraph of the Conclusion section on page 119 should read, "Both structural and nonstructural range improvements, maintenance, and replacement are proposed at a long-term total cost of \$735,090 or an average annual cost of \$36,754."**

**In response to Comment P, the third paragraph of the Impacts on Range Resources section on page 128 should read as follows.**

**"Range improvement costs will total approximately \$689,000. Table 4-6 summarizes the proposed range improvements. Maintenance on the proposed and existing improvements will add another \$531,480 over the long term."**

In response to Comment P, Table 4-6 on page 129 should read as follows.

**TABLE 4-6  
PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND  
COST DATA FOR ALTERNATIVE B**

IMPROVEMENT/ TREATMENT	UNIT	QUANTITY	COST*
Weed Control	Acres	500	\$ 8,500
Fences	Miles	104	\$416,000
Cattleguard	Each	32	\$ 64,000
Springs	Each	69	\$172,500
Pipeline	Miles	4	\$ 28,000

\*Cost data over 20-year period includes materials and labor.

In response to Comment P, the last sentence of the Conclusion section on page 130 should read, "Range improvement construction, maintenance, and replacement costs over the long term are projected to be \$1,428,930 or an average annual cost of \$71,446."

The second paragraph in the Locatables section on page 136 should read as follows.

"Designation of the four wilderness study areas as wilderness areas would have a detrimental effect on opportunities for locatable minerals. After formal designation, wilderness areas are closed to location of new mining claims. This equals 27,737 acres in this resource area. Wales Creek WSA is the only one of four wilderness study areas that contains unpatented (40) mining claims. Development work, extraction, and patenting would be allowed to continue on valid mining claims located on or before wilderness designation. Any mining activity in a wilderness area will require an approved plan of operations under the 3809 Regulations. The potential for metallic minerals ranges from low in Hoodoo WSA to medium in Quigg West 202 WSA, Gallagher 202 WSA, and part of Wales Creek WSA to high in the southern portion of Wales Creek WSA. Even though most of the 27,737 acres are moderate and low potential, designation as wilderness would mean the long-term loss of this potential. In the area of high rating, this potential, also, would be lost, subject to valid existing rights of the claimants."

In response to Comment P, the fifth paragraph of the Impacts on Range Resources section on page 139 should read as follows.

"Range improvement costs on proposed projects will total approximately \$332,000. Table 4-10 lists the improvements and their cost. Maintenance and replacement costs on existing projects and the new projects will add another \$623,120 over the long term. Table 4-10 summarizes the proposed range improvements."

In response to Comment P, Table 4-10 on page 139 should read as follows.

**TABLE 4-10  
PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND  
COST DATA FOR ALTERNATIVES C AND D**

IMPROVEMENT/ TREATMENT	UNIT	QUANTITY	COST*
Weed Control	Acres	0	\$ 0
Fence	Miles	73	\$292,000
Cattleguard	Each	20	\$ 40,000
Spring	Each	0	\$ 0
Pipeline	Miles	0	\$ 0

\*Cost data over 20-year period includes materials and labor.

In response to Comment P, the last sentence of the third paragraph in the Conclusion section on page 140 should read, "Range improvements would be limited to building control fences and cattleguards at a total estimated construction, maintenance, and replacement cost over the long term of \$955,120 or an average annual cost of \$47,756."

The fifth and sixth sentence of the second paragraph in the Locatable section on page 146 should read as follows.

"Development work, extraction, and patenting would be allowed to continue on valid claims located on or before wilderness designation. Any mining activity in a wilderness study area will require an approved plan of operations under the 3809 Regulations."

In response to Comment P, the third paragraph in the Impacts on Range Resources section on page 154 should read as follows.

"The range improvement costs will total approximately \$356,100. Maintenance costs on new construction over the long term will run about \$117,470; maintenance on existing projects will add another \$299,120; weed control another \$10,200 and



replacement another \$191,450 for a grand total of \$974,340. Table 4-14 summarizes the proposed range improvements.”

In response to Comment P, Table 4-14 on page 154 should read as follows.

**TABLE 4-14  
PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND  
COST DATA FOR ALTERNATIVE E**

IMPROVEMENT/ TREATMENT	UNIT	QUANTITY	COST*
Weed Control	Acres	300	\$ 5,100
Fence	Miles	53	\$212,000
Cattleguard	Each	19	\$ 38,000
Spring	Each	32	\$ 80,000
Pipeline	Miles	3	\$ 21,000

\*Cost data over 20-year period includes materials and labor.

In response to Comment P, the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 156 should read, “Range improvement construction, maintenance, and replacement will cost \$974,340 over the long term or an average annual cost of \$48,717.”

**TEXT CHANGES TO APPENDIX A**

In response to Comment S, the first sentence of Management Guideline 13 on page 172 should read, “In order to optimize cover effectiveness harvest units, except single or group tree selection, and thinning units will generally be irregular in shape at 20 to 40 acres.”

In response to Comment S, the first sentence of Management Guideline 13 on page 174 should read, “Timber sale units, except single or group tree selection, and thermal or security cover areas will generally be 20 to 30 acres in size.”

Management Guideline 4 on page 175 should read as follows.

“Subject to valid rights existing on the date of wilderness designation, mining will be prohibited and the area withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws. Mining operations permitted because of valid existing rights must be based upon an approved plan of operations and will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy.”

Management Guideline 2 on page 176 should read, “Oil and gas leases will be issued with stipulations that prohibit surface occupancy, as needed.”

**TEXT CHANGES TO APPENDIX B**

In response to Comment C, the first sentence on page 181 should read, “The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are adapted from the Montana Statewide 208 study (Montana 1979).”

**TEXT CHANGES TO APPENDIX E**

The following form was left out of the draft RMP/EIS. It should occupy page 202.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management**

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(Serial No.)

**LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION**

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the Bureau of Land Management and the Surface Management Agency (SMA), for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells. After the SMA has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on those lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the SMA will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

Reason for Restriction:

Duration of Restriction: (designate months)

Prior to acceptance of this stipulation, the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the BLM/SMA for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

## TEXT CHANGES TO GLOSSARY

The following acronyms and definitions should be added to the Glossary.

FLPMA. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

LEASABLE MINERALS. (1) All minerals except salable minerals on acquired lands. (2) All minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf. (3) Coal; phosphate; oil; gas; chlorides, sulphates, carbonates, borates, silicates or nitrates of potassium and sodium; sulphur in the states of Louisiana and New Mexico; native asphalt, solid and semisolid bitumen and bituminous rock including oil-impregnated rock or sands from which oil is recoverable only by special treatment after the deposit is mined. (4) Geothermal resources and associated byproducts. (Maley 1983)

SIZE CLASS. (See Appendix R.)

UNCLASSIFIED RANGE. A designation used for vegetative communities that could not be legitimately compared to a climax community. (See Appendix L.)

SECURITY AREAS. These are areas where elk may remain or move to following disturbing activities such as logging or hunting. Hiding cover (or security cover) alone will not constitute elk security.

SEASONAL RESTRICTION should be changed to read, "A restriction placed on **resource development and use**. The restriction is applied to protect **surface resources during a time when activities would adversely affect them.**"

The following should be added to the Security Cover definition. **In the final EIS the term security cover is synonymous with hiding cover.**

## TEXT CHANGES TO REFERENCES

In response to Comments C, J, and R, the following references should be added to the references for the final EIS.

Montana Department of Health and Environmental Services, Water Quality Bureau. 1979. *Statewide Water Quality Management Plan: Recommendations of the Statewide 208 Water Quality Management Planning Project*. Helena, MT.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. USDI, BLM. 1984. *Cooperative Fish Management Plan for Public Lands in Montana*. Helena, MT.

USDI, Geological Survey. 1984. *Phase II, Geochemical Mineral Resource Survey of the Wales Creek Wilderness Study Area (075-150), Powell County, Montana*. Reinhard W. Leinz and David J. Grimes. Open File Report 84-343. Denver, CO.

WGM Incorporated. 1983. *Phase I, Geology, Energy, and Mineral (GEM) Resource Assessment of the Garnet RA, Montana, including the Wales Creek (075-150), Hoodoo Mountain (075-151A) and Gallagher Creek (075-151B) Wilderness Study Areas*. Greg Fernette. Bureau of Land Management Contract Number YA-553-CT2-1039. Anchorage, AK.