UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BLM, BOISE DISTRICT

EA #ID110-2007-EA-3374 Title Page

Applicant:	Proposed Action:			EA No.
BLM Action	Cascade Land Sales			ID-110-2007-3374
State:	County:	District:	Field Office:	Authority:
Idaho	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Valley, Washington	Boise	Four Rivers	NEPA, FLPMA
Prepared By:	Title:			Report Date:
FRFO ID Team	Various			6/25/2007

LANDS INVOLVED: See Legal Descriptions in EA

Consideration of Critical Elements	N/A or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Discussed in EA
Air Quality	x		
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	x		
Cultural Resources			x
Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)	x		
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	x		
Floodplains	x		
Migratory Birds	x		
Native American Religious Concerns	x		
Invasive, Nonnative Species			x
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	x		
Threatened or Endangered Species			x
Social and Economic			x
Water Quality (Drinking/Ground)	x		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	x		
Wild and Scenic Rivers (Eligible)	x		
Wilderness Study Areas	x		

CASCADE LAND SALES
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.0 CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to dispose of 35 parcels of public land, comprising approximately 4961.19 acres, through a combination of direct and competitive sales. Thirty (30) of the parcels, totaling approximately 3,074.82 acres, are classified for disposal in the 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) because they are isolated, contain low resource values, are difficult and uneconomic to manage, and/or do not contribute to the management of federal programs. These parcels will be offered for sale by open competitive bidding.

The Cascade RMP, however, classified five (5) of the parcels, totaling approximately 1886.37 acres, for retention in federal ownership. These parcels are proposed for disposal because, not only do they contain some of the same attributes as the above parcels, but more importantly, they have been identified by local governments as important for meeting community expansion needs. In order to sell the five parcels, the Cascade RMP needs to be amended to classify them as suitable for disposal. Once classified as suitable for disposal, two of the parcels would be offered for direct sale, and three would be offered for competitive sale.

1.2 Land Use Plan Conformance

Planning criteria are used to guide the plan amendment process. Planning criteria help streamline and focus the NEPA process, establish standards, and indicate factors to be considered in decision making.

The following planning criteria were approved during the Cascade RMP process and have been adopted for this amendment:

-Social and economic values;
-Plans, programs and policies of other Federal agencies, State and local government, and Indian tribes;
-Existing laws, regulations, and BLM policy;
-Future needs and demands for existing or potential resource commodities and values;
-Public input;
-Public welfare and safety;
-Past and present use of public and adjacent lands;
-Protection of the resource values identified;
-Public benefits of providing goods and services in relation to costs;
-Quantity and quality of resource values; and
-Environmental impacts.

1.3 Relationship with Statutes, Regulations, and Other Requirements

The land use plan amendment process is guided by procedures published in the Bureau Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5) and incorporates National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements (40 CFR 1500).

1.4 Planning Issues

The relevant planning issue is whether public land parcels that are identified for retention in public ownership should be classified as suitable for disposal. Each parcel would be evaluated on its own merits for potential transfer out of public ownership. The environmental assessment for the proposed sales is part of this document. If, through the assessment process, it is determined that any of these parcels should remain in public ownership, they would remain in retention status.

The environmental assessment on the proposed transfer actions will ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including NEPA and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

1.5 Environmental Issues

Environmental issues are questions and concerns regarding impacts on resources and resource uses. Issues identified for this environmental assessment focus on:

-livestock grazing;
-recreation;
-wildlife;
-special status species;
-local economics.

2.0 CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to amend the 1988 Cascade RMP to classify the following five parcels of public land as suitable for disposal out of federal ownership, and then to sell the parcels as described below. The five parcels have been identified by local government entities as necessary for community expansion, including buffers around landfills, an off-highway motorcycle park, and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Parcel 1. Lands that comprise the existing Clay Peak Motorcycle Park are proposed for direct sale to Payette County.

T. 8 N., R. 5 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 1: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S½NE¼, SW¼NW¼, S½;

section 2: Lots 1 & 2, S½NE¼, NE¼SE¼; that portion of NW¼SE¼ lying north and east of the highway
section 12: N½NE¼, that portion of SW¼NE¼, NW¼ lying north and east of the highway;
Aggregating approximately 948.04 acres, more or less.

Parcel 2. Lands proposed for direct sale to Canyon County to be used as a buffer zone around the Pickles Butte Sanitary Landfill, for expansion of an existing shooting range, and for additional dispersed and OHV recreation.

T. 2 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 20: S½S½;
section 21: NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼; E½SW¼NE¼, E½W½SE¼;
section 28: N½, N½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
section 29: N½NE¼;
Aggregating approximately 820.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 3. An isolated parcel near the City of Star would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 5 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Ada County, Idaho
section 31: N½SE¼;
Containing 80.00 acres, more or less

Parcel 4. An isolated parcel near the City of Cascade would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 14 N., R. 3 E., Boise Meridian, Valley County, Idaho
section 25: Lot 13;
Containing 8.76 acres, more or less

Parcel 5. An isolated parcel near existing developments in Canyon County would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 3 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 15: Lots 2 and 3;
Containing 29.57 acres, more or less.

In addition to the above land use plan amendment, the Four Rivers Field Office proposes to dispose of the following 30 public land parcels by either direct or competitive sale.

Parcel 6 was identified in the Cascade RMP as suitable for disposal, and will be offered for direct sale to Adams County for landfill purposes.

Parcel 6.
T. 15 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 17: NW¼NE¼;

section 18: NW¼SE¼;
Aggregating 80.00 acres, more or less

The following 29 parcels that are identified for disposal in the Cascade RMP, and would be made available for competitive sale.

Parcel 7.
T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 18: Lots 5, 6, E½SW¼;
Containing 158.64 acres, more or less.

Parcel 8.
T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 19: NE¼, E½NW¼, NE¼SW¼, N½SE¼;
Containing 360.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 9.
T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 20: NW¼;
Containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 10.
T. 8 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 23: W½NE¼, SE¼NE¼;
Containing 120.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 11.
T. 8 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 24: NE¼NW¼, S½NW¼, NE¼SW¼;
Containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 12.
T. 10 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Washington County, Idaho
section 26: NW¼NW¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 13.
T. 10 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Washington County, Idaho
section 27: SW¼SE¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 14.
T. 11 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Washington County, Idaho
section 1: Lot 1, SE¼NE¼;
Containing 80.18 acres, more or less.

Parcel 15.
T. 14 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 1: SE¼SW¼,
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 16.
T. 15 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 3: Lot 4;
Containing 39.11 acres, more or less.

Parcel 17.
T. 15 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 9: S½NW¼;
Containing 80.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 18.
T. 15 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 13: N½N½;
Containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 19.
T. 17 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho
section 5: Lot 4, SW¼NW¼;
Containing 73.45 acres, more or less.

Parcel 20.
T. 1 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 26: SE¼NE¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 21.
T. 1 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 25: SW¼NW¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 22.
T. 8 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 32: N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, SE¼;
Containing 280.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 23.
T. 8 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 33: S½S½;
Containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 24.
T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 31: S½SE¼;
Containing 80.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 25.
T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 32: SW¼NE¼, N½SW¼;
Containing 120.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 26.
T. 7 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 4: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S½N½, E½SE¼;
Containing 398.90 acres, more or less.

Parcel 27.
T. 7 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 2: SW¼NE¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 28.
T. 15 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Washington County, Idaho
section 35: NW¼SE¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 29.
T. 11 N., R. 1 E., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 24: SW¼NW¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 30.
T. 11 N., R. 2 E., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 19: Lot 7;
Containing 40.23 acres, more or less.

Parcel 31.
T. 9 N., R. 2 E., Boise Meridian, Boise County, Idaho
section 19: Lot 3;
Containing 22.25 acres, more or less.

Parcel 32.
T. 9 N., R. 2 E., Boise Meridian, Boise County, Idaho
section 18: Lot 2;
Containing 21.98 acres, more or less.

Parcel 33.
T. 7 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 8 : NE¼NW¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 34.
T. 7 N., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, Gem County, Idaho
section 17: NE¼NE¼;
Containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 35.
T. 7 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 5: Lot 1, SE¼NE¼;
Containing 80.08 acres, more or less.

The above 29 parcels aggregate approximately 2994.82 acres.

If tracts offered for direct sale are not purchased by the identified party(s), the subject tracts may subsequently be offered for open competitive sale.

Whether sold through direct or competitive sale, each of the above parcels will be transferred subject to the following terms, conditions, and reservations:

1. A reservation to the United States of a right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States under the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);
2. Pursuant to the requirements established by section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act [42 U.S.C. 9620(h)] (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1988 (100 Stat. 1670), notice is hereby given that the above-described lands have been examined and no evidence was found to indicate that any hazardous substances had been stored for one year or more, nor had any hazardous substances been disposed of or released on the subject property.
3. All purchasers/patentees, by accepting a patent, covenant and agree to indemnify, defend, and hold the United States harmless from any costs, damages, claims, causes of action, penalties, fines, liabilities, and judgments of any kind or nature arising from the past, present, and future acts or omissions of the patentees or their employees, agents, contractors, lessees, or any third party, arising out of or in connection with the patentee's use, occupancy, or operations on the patented real property. This indemnification and hold harmless agreement includes, but is not limited to, acts and omissions of the patentees and their employees, agents, contractors, or lessees, or any third party, arising out of or in connection with the use and/or occupancy of the patented real property which has already resulted or does hereafter result in: (1) Violations of Federal, state, and local laws and regulations that are now or may in the future become applicable to the real property; (2) Judgments, claims or demands of any kind assessed against the United States; (3) Costs,

expenses, or damages of any kind incurred by the United States; (4) Releases or threatened releases of solid or hazardous waste(s), and/or hazardous substance(s), as defined by Federal or state environmental laws, off, on, into or under land, property and other interests of the United States; (5) Activities by which solid waste or hazardous substance(s) or waste, as defined by Federal and state environmental laws are generated, released, stored, used or otherwise disposed of on the patented real property, and any cleanup response, remedial action or other actions related in any manner to said solid or hazardous substance(s) or waste(s); or (6) Natural resource damages as defined by Federal and state law. This covenant shall be construed as running with the parcel of land patented or otherwise conveyed by the United States, and may be enforced by the United States in a court of competent jurisdiction.

The patent to the following parcels would be issued with a reservation of a right-of-way for a federal aid highway.

Parcel No.	Casefile No.	Casetype / Authority	Holder Name
16	IDI-4973	FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY (SEC 317) Act of August 27, 1958 (23 U.S.C. 317(A))	Idaho Dept. of Transportation
1	IDBL-047699	FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY (SEC 17) Act of November 9, 1921 (42 Stat. 216)	Idaho Dept. of Transportation
1	IDI-26915	FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY (SEC 317) Act of August 27, 1958 (23 U.S.C. 317(A))	Idaho Dept. of Transportation

The following parcels would be transferred subject to specific valid existing rights, as described below.

Parcel No.	Casefile No.	Casetype / Authority	Holder Name
22	IDI-33172	STOCK DRIVEWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	BLM Boise District
22	IDI-34451	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Logan Schirmer
16	IDI-31364	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Alan Gamblin
16	IDI-0733	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of March 4, 1911, as amended (43 U.S.C. 961)	Idaho Power Co
16	IDI-22584	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Council Telephone Co

3	IDI-20849	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Robert Morrison
3	IDI-30448	WATER FACILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Star Sewer & Water
6	IDI-22584	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Council Telephone Co
6	IDI-33794	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
6	IDI-34097	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
6	IDI-34097	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
6	IDI-34097	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co

Parcel Number	Serial Number	Casetype / Authority	Customer
6	IDI-34111	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Cambridge Telephone
6	IDI-22584	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Council Telephone Co
6	IDI-33309	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Adams County
6	IDI-33794	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
6	IDI-34111	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Cambridge Telephone
2	IDI 29683	ROAD & PARKING RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Joe DeCleur
2	IDI 20732	IRRIGATION FACILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of July 26, 1866	Bing/Frost Ranch Co
2	IDI 34099	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Canyon County Solid Waste Dept.
2	IDI 20932	IRRIGATION FACILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of July 26, 1866	Desert Sun Farms, Inc
2	IDI 0005012	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
2	IDI 0015221	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of March 4, 1911, as amended (43 U.S.C. 961)	Idaho Power Co
2	IDI 0015222	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of March 4, 1911, as amended (43 U.S.C. 961)	Idaho Power Co
2	IDI 001025	IRRIGATION FACILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of March 3, 1891, as amended (43 U.S.C. 946-949)	Farm Development Corp
1	IDI-13054	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
1	IDI-20018	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY	Idaho Power Co

		Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	

Parcel Number	Serial Number	Casetype / Authority	Customer
1	IDI-22927	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Payette County
1	IDI-30003	TEL & TELEGRAPH RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	QWEST - Bruce McCulloch
1	IDI-33588	POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Various Authorities/Statutes	Idaho Power Co
1	IDBL-056202	TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of March 4, 1911, as amended (43 U.S.C. 961)	Idaho Power Co
1	IDI-31924	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Idaho Power Co
2	IDI-35131	ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Ralph Sevy
4	IDI-35649	TRAIL RIGHT-OF-WAY Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761)	Southern Valley County Recreation District

The following authorizations are revocable Land Use Permits that may or may not be included as valid existing rights on the affected patent, depending on whether or not the permits have been revoked prior to patent issuance.

Parcel Number	Serial Number	Casetype / Authority	Customer
2	IDI-24410	LAND USE PERMIT – BEE HIVES Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732)	Hamilton Honey LLC
2	IDI-24390	LAND USE PERMIT – BEE HIVES Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732)	Honeygold Corp
2	IDI-24421	LAND USE PERMIT – AIR STRIP Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732)	Valley Air Service

2.2 No Action Alternative

Only those parcels of public land identified for disposal in the Cascade RMP would be sold. All other public lands described herein would remain in public ownership.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

2.3 Soil and Watershed Resources

2.3.1 Affected Environment – Soil and Watershed Resources

Soils in the affected areas are very diverse due to the variety of parent materials, landscape position, and other soil formation properties. Basically these soils are shallow to deep and well drained (with the exception of the soils found on the Crow Island tract and the tract along the Payette River which may range to poorly drained). These soils formed in a variety of parent materials with the majority of the soils formed in alluvium derived from volcanic materials (both intrusive such as granitic materials and extrusive such as basalt). Some soils have been influenced by sedimentary materials (lake bed materials) and loess (wind deposited materials). Soils influenced by these factors occur in the lower elevation tracts such as around Emmet.

Depending on elevation and aspect these soils either have a mesic or frigid soil temperature regime and a xeric soil moisture regime (the lowest elevation areas have a xeric bordering on aridic soil moisture regime). A general rule is that those soils found at elevations above 5300' have a frigid soil temperature regime while those below this elevation have a mesic soil temperature regime. Some soils on northern aspects in the higher elevation regions of these tracts have a cryic soil temperature regime or border on it.

Runoff from these soils is slow to moderately rapid (dependent mostly on slope). Erosion potential from water and/or wind is slight to moderate (with the exception of soils which may have a high erosion potential due to slope steepness and erosive granitic parent materials). At this time there are no known areas of active accelerated erosion (rilling or gully formation) taking place on any of these tracts.

2.3.2 Environmental Consequences - Soils and Watershed Resources

2.3.2.1 Proposed Action

The sale of public lands under this proposal should have little impact on soil resources since land use would remain relatively constant. On parcels where development occurs, soils would be disturbed and displaced, potentially increasing local erosion potential

2.3.2.2 No Action

Impacts to soil resources would not change under existing management.

2.4 Vegetation, Special Status Plants, and Noxious Weeds

2.4.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation, Special Status Plants, and Noxious Weeds

Vegetation: Vegetation and habitat condition of the 35 parcels is best summarized in Table 1. Habitat conditions range from very poor to excellent, with the majority (24 parcels) determined to be in very poor to poor condition. Only three of the 35 parcels are in excellent condition, with 12 in fair to good condition.

Table 1. Plant community, habitat condition, and presence of special status plants on 35 parcels of public land proposed for sale in the Four Rivers Field Office.

Parcel	Legal Description			Acres	Plant Communities	Special Status Plants		Special Status Animals		Grazing Allotments		
	Twp	Rng	Sec			Habitat Condition	Plant Species	Habitat Condition	Animal Species	Name and Number	Percent being disposed	AUMs to be canceled
1	8 N	5 W	1, 2, 12	948+	exotic annuals/sage brush	poor	none	poor	SIDGS	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
2	2 N	3 W	20, 21, 28, 29	820	exotic annual with scattered pockets of sagebrush	poor	none	poor	Burrow-ing owl, long-billed curlew	Pickle Butte #2	N/A	N/A
											(Pickle Butte Allotment has been closed to grazing for several years)	
3	5 N	1W	31	80	sagebrush/bunchgrass	good	none	good	Shrub-steppe birds	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
4	14 N	3 E	25	8.76	big sagebrush/ stiff sagebrush	Poor	none	fair	Bald eagle	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
5	3 N	3 W	15	29.57	pockets of sagebrush and bunchgrasses surrounded by agricultural land	fair	none	Poor AG land	Near bald eagle habitat	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
6	15 N	1 W	17 18	80	big sagebrush/ rigid sagebrush/ bunchgrasses	good	none	fair	Sage sparrow	Bacon Creek #199	100%	9
7	8N	2W	18	160	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	SIDGS	French Corner #25	54%	200
8	8N	2W	19	360	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
9	8N	2W	20	160	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
10	8N	3W	23	120	annual grasses	very poor	none	poor	none			
11	8N	3W	24	160	annual grasses	poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
12	10 N	3W	26	40	sagebrush/annual and perennial grasses	poor	none	Poor to fair	Shrub-steppe birds	Holland Gulch #301	01%	6
13	10 N	3W	27	40	sagebrush/annual and perennial grasses	fair	none	fair	Shrub-steppe birds	Skow FFR #303	100%	6
14	11 N	2W	1	80+	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	Sage-grouse	South Pasture of Tennison Creek #61	100%	11
15	14 N	2W	1	40	sagebrush/annual and perennial grasses	poor	none	poor	Shrub-steppe birds	County Line #17	100% with parcel #1180	9

Parcel	Legal Description			Acres	Plant Communities	Special Status Plants		Special Status Animals		Grazing Allotments		
	Twp	Rng	Sec			Habitat Condition	Plant Species	Habitat Condition	Animal Species	Name and Number	Percent being disposed	AUMs to be canceled
16	15 N	1W	3	40-	mountain brush/ perennial grass	excellent	none	excellent	Sage and Brewer sparrow	Was within Mesa #217, but no longer is an allotment. Grazing preference was canceled in July 2006 EA for Goodrich Watershed, Isolated Parcels		
17	15 N	1W	9	80	Sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	excellent	none	excellent	Sage sparrow	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
18	15 N	2W	13	160	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	fair	none	high	Sharp-tailed grouse	Grouse Ridge #20122	100%	9
19	17 N	1W	5	73+	sagebrush/annual and perennial grasses	poor	none	poor	none	Home Ranch #132	06%	15
20	1N	3W	26	40	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	collard lizard	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
21	1N	3W	25	40	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	collard lizard	Not within an allotment	N/A	N/A
22	8N	3W	32	280	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	SIDGS	Clipper Flat #204	100% with Parcel #1333	219 with parcel #1333
23	8N	3W	33	160	annual and perennial grasses	poor	none	poor	None			
24	8N	2W	31	80	annual grasses	poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
25	8N	2W	32	120	annual grasses	poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
26	7N	3W	4	399-	annual grasses	very poor	none	poor	SIDGS			
27	7N	3W	2	40	annual and perennial grasses	poor	none	poor	SIDGS range			
28	15 N	2W	35	40	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	Shrub-steppe birds	County Line #17	See parcel #1074	See Parcel #1074
29	11 N	1E	24	40	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	poor - fair	none	fair	Shrub-steppe birds	Simplot Cattle Company #238	25%	17
30	11 N	2E	19	40+	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	fair - good	none	fair	Shrub-steppe birds			
31	9N	2E	19	22+	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	fair	none	fair	Shrub-steppe birds	Soldier Creek Ranch #182	100%	8
32	9N	2E	18	22-	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ perennial grass	fair	none	fair	Shrub-steppe birds			

Parcel	Legal Description			Acres	Plant Communities	Special Status Plants		Special Status Animals		Grazing Allotments		
	Twp	Rng	Sec			Habitat Condition	Plant Species	Habitat Condition	Animal Species	Name and Number	Percent being disposed	AUMs to be canceled
33	7N	2W	8	40	sparse sagebrush/ annual grass	poor	none	poor	SIDGS	Sand Hollow #124	02%	23
34	7N	2W	17	40	annual grasses	very poor		poor	SIDGS			
35	7N	3W	5	80+	sagebrush and bitterbrush/ annual grass	poor	Snake River Golden weed	poor	Long-billed curlew, SIDGS	Clipper Flat #240	See Parcels #1121 to #1127	
				5,131.19						**12 Active Allots.**		**531** **2 permits will be canceled in full; 9 permits will be reduced**

* Habitat Condition: **Poor** - No or few shrubs area dominated by annual grasses and forbs. No or minimal diversity and structure.
Fair - Low to moderate shrub occurrence understory and area dominated by annual and perennial grasses and forbs. Moderate diversity and structure.
Good - Moderate shrub occurrence understory and area dominated by perennial grasses and forbs. Moderate to high diversity and structure.
Excellent - Potential shrub community with understory dominated by perennial grasses and forbs. High diversity and structure.

All but one of the 35 parcels are classified as shrub-steppe plant communities. Wildfires have converted the native shrub-steppe plant communities on many of these parcels to areas that are now dominated by annual grasses (Table 1). These grassland parcels are typified by annual grasses and forbs mixed with perennial grasses and few to no shrubs.

Special Status Plants: Special status plants are those considered "sensitive" by the BLM. All parcels being considered for sale were surveyed for special status plants. No federally listed "threatened" or "endangered" plant species were found or are known from the affected parcels. The BLM Sensitive Plant Snake River goldenweed (*Haplopappus radiatus*), a BLM Type 3 species, is known to occupy the northeast corner of the Clay Peak parcel. Most of this area has been heavily impacted by fire, is dominated by exotic annuals, and serves as a motorcycle and off road vehicle use area.

Noxious Weeds: Several species of noxious weeds are known to inhabit the public land parcels proposed for sale. These weeds, which are listed on the State of Idaho's Noxious Weed list, include Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), spotted knapweed (*C. maculosa*), Russian knapweed (*C. repens*), and whitetop (*Cardaria draba*).

If noxious weeds were not identified during past inventories, there is high potential for their encroachment onto the proposed sale parcels. BLM continues to work towards preventing,

controlling, and/or eradicating noxious weeds through assistance agreements with the counties, utilizing BLM personnel, private contracting of certified and licensed applicators, and coordination with cooperative weed management areas.

2.4.2 Environmental Consequences - Vegetation, Special Status Plants, and Noxious Weeds

2.4.2.1 Proposed Action

Vegetation: Sale, and subsequent development, of Parcels 3, 4, and 5 (119 acres) for residential home sites would result in modification of the present vegetation. Of these, parcels 3 and 5 (110 acres) are in good to fair condition and parcel 4 (8.76 acres) is in poor condition. Residential home site development would have a direct, negative effect by removing vegetation. The two largest parcels, Parcel 1 (Clay Peak) and Parcel 2 (Pickles Butte), would be developed as a motorcycle park and landfill respectively. Both of these parcels are dominated by exotic annuals with widely scattered pockets of native vegetation and are in poor condition. Development of these two sites may further degrade the existing vegetation.

The remaining 30 parcels are generally small. Many of them are surrounded by large tracts of private land where livestock grazing is the primary use. The grazing season and stocking rate are influenced by the management of the surrounding private lands. For the most part, livestock grazing and current stocking rates would remain unchanged if the offered public lands were transferred into private ownership. Livestock grazing on many of these parcels is authorized under a policy which allows the private land owner discretionary management of the public land parcel. Consequently, vegetation communities and habitat conditions on these 30 parcels would not be expected to change a great deal, at least while livestock grazing continues as the primary use.

Special Status Plants: Additional development of Parcel 1 (Clay Peak) as a motorcycle and recreational use area is likely to occur following the proposed sale. It is highly likely that the population of Snake River goldenweed on the parcel would be negatively impacted by the proposed development and use. This site, however, represents only one of 38 known sites of this species across the Boise District. Impacts to the population as a whole are expected to be slight because the number of individual plants potentially impacted from this action represents only a small fraction of the total number of individual plants across the range of the species.

Other than the specific parcels and species discussed above, BLM “sensitive” and federally listed plants would be unaffected by disposal of the remaining tracts, as no other populations were found or were previously known from these areas.

Noxious Weeds: Although noxious weeds are widely distributed throughout this area in varying degrees and densities, many infestations could be controlled and eradication is possible on some smaller weed infestations. With treatment, there could be some degree of control and in the long term, weed control would result in preventing infestations from expanding or becoming monocultures. There would also be more opportunities for weed control if public lands are transferred into private ownership, since private landowners have fewer restrictions in terms of controlling noxious weeds, and would also have more herbicides available than under the present

situation. In addition, private landowners could also consider alternative practices to control or eradicate noxious weeds, such as cultivation, reseeding, burning, fertilization, grazing, and mowing.

2.4.2.2 No Action

Land use and management of public land parcels would remain as described in the Affected Environment section. Noxious weeds would probably be treated and controlled at a slower rate than in private ownership. Overall, the potential impacts from land use on goldenrod species would be slightly less, thus, slightly increasing its chance for survival.

2.5 Wildlife

2.5.1 Affected Environment - Wildlife

There are 35 parcels of public land being considered for disposal, totaling approximately 4961.19 acres. Twelve of the parcels are classified as sparse sagebrush with an annual grass understory (Table 1). Fourteen parcels are characterized as sagebrush and perhaps bitterbrush with a perennial grass understory. Of the remaining nine parcels; eight are grouped as a grassland habitat type, and one as mountain shrub. Where recent wildfires have occurred, an area can be dominated by annual grasses and forbs intermixed with perennial bunchgrass. Dominant annual grasses include cheatgrass, Japanese brome, and medusahead. Rabbitbrush may be the dominant shrub in areas that have been subjected to repeated wildfires. Only parcel 4 provides any riparian habitat, and it occurs along the Payette River, just below Cascade Reservoir. Please see Table 1 for wildlife habitat condition and the primary special status animal species that are likely to occur on each parcel.

In terms of wildlife diversity and numbers there is a correlation between the value of an area for wildlife and its vegetative status or condition. Areas in fair or better condition are representative of a more diverse habitat type and correspondingly support larger and more diverse wildlife populations. Poor condition shrub-steppe areas have a minimal occurrence of big sagebrush and are dominated by annual grasses and forbs. Shrub-steppe areas in poor condition do not provide large or continuous stands of sagebrush that are necessary to attract and support sagebrush obligate species (e.g., sage sparrow and Brewer's sparrow). A shrub-steppe in good or excellent condition would be characterized by a dominance of big sagebrush or sagebrush/bitterbrush, and a diverse understory of perennial grasses and forbs. Of the 35 parcels, 23 (4,327 acres) are in poor condition with few shrubs and a dominance of annual grasses and forbs. The remaining 12 parcels (634 acres) range in condition from poor-fair to excellent condition.

The shrub-steppe parcels support a diversity of wildlife species. Common big game species include elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. A common predator is the coyote. California quail, chukar, and gray partridge are upland game birds which occur throughout the general area. The northern harrier which is listed as "sensitive" by BLM, red-tailed hawk and golden eagle are common raptors. Shrub-steppe areas provide important breeding and nesting habitat for "Sensitive" species like the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse. Parcel 14 (80 acres)

is in poor condition and is in close proximity to a sage grouse lek. Parcel 18 (160 acres) is designated in the Cascade RMP as Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat and offers high quality habitat for sharptails. The sage sparrow and Brewer's sparrow are "Sensitive" species which migrate into the area to breed and are found in continuous or large stands of sagebrush during the spring, summer, and early fall. The sage thrasher is a common species inhabiting sagebrush areas. The green-tailed towhee is a "Sensitive" species found in dense mountain shrub areas. The spotted towhee is common in dense shrub and riparian areas. The loggerhead shrike is another "Sensitive" species which migrates into the area to breed and can be found in many different habitats. Species common to the general area include the American kestrel, common nighthawk, common raven, Brewer's blackbird, vesper sparrow, and lark sparrow.

Treasure Valley parcels, such as Parcel 6, that are in close proximity to farmland have habitat value for ring-necked pheasant and California quail.

Thirteen parcels are adjacent to an area which supports Southern Idaho ground squirrels, a candidate species for listing (Table 1). Based on recent surveys, there has been a dramatic decline in the occurrence of this species. Although the Payette County parcels considered for disposal contain one of the two largest known concentrations of Southern Idaho ground squirrel on BLM lands, larger squirrel colonies exist on private lands. There is concern regarding the viability of the current Southern Idaho ground squirrel population. This concern is especially true in shrub-steppe areas that have been transformed to annual grassland by wildfires and historic livestock grazing.

The eight grassland parcels (1,120 acres) are typified by annual grasses and forbs mixed with perennial grasses, with few or no shrubs. Grassland parcels were once shrub-steppe and have been converted to an annual or mixed annual and perennial grassland habitat type. These areas are dominated by fine fuels and are vulnerable to repeated wildfires. There is little likelihood of these areas reverting naturally to shrub-steppe without substantial vegetation management efforts (i.e., weed control, seeding). All grassland parcels are in poor condition due to the dominance of cheatgrass and/or medusahead. Grasslands provide habitat for open ground nesting birds like the western meadowlark and horned lark, which are common to the area. The savannah and grasshopper sparrow can be found in grassland areas in the summer and fall. Open grassland areas also provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for the long-billed curlew and the western burrowing owl, both "sensitive" species.

Most of the parcels provide some habitat for big game and a diversity of nongame birds and mammals. Public lands being considered for sale do not incorporate any special or unique habitat that would distinguish them from the surrounding area. Where big sagebrush and bitterbrush are intermingled and are the dominant shrub types, they provide important elk and mule deer winter habitat. The value of a parcel in terms of providing habitat for wintering big game is influenced to a large extent by elevation, aspect, and condition. Four 40-acre parcels are identified in the Cascade RMP as crucial big game winter range. One of the parcels is in excellent condition and three are in poor condition, being dominated by annual grasses with only a sparse occurrence of sagebrush.

None of the identified parcels contain Canada lynx habitat, and currently, gray wolves are not known to inhabit the immediate area. As wolf management is transferred to the state of Idaho, movement patterns may change, bringing wolves closer to or further from the sale parcels.

2.5.2 Environmental Consequences - Wildlife

2.5.2.1 Proposed Action

Impacts to wildlife from sales of public land have been assessed in terms of the likelihood of change in the primary use and/or management of the sale parcels. A change in the primary use would have a direct effect or influence on wildlife habitat. In all likelihood, the proposed land sales would not effect a change in the present use or management on the majority of parcels. On these parcels, the land sales would have little net effect on wildlife or their habitats.

Based on the potential for rural home site development, the proposed land sales could effect a change on eight parcels. These eight parcels are readily accessible by county roads and/or major highways. Several parcels have residential development in close proximity to them. It is reasonable to assume that if these parcels were sold they would be developed for residential home sites. Parcel 4 near Cascade, Idaho, is specifically targeted for housing development. Residential home site development would have a direct effect on wildlife and its habitat. Although the Cascade tract is in poor condition, by its proximity to Cascade Reservoir and the Payette River, it affords space for wildlife in a rapidly developing region of Idaho. Furthermore, the site affords foraging and feeding habitat for both wintering and nesting bald eagles and osprey, which would not change following disposal. Bald eagles are currently listed as Threatened by the USFWS, but are in the process of being de-listed.

Loss, in terms of wildlife value, is related to the quality of habitat that would be developed for home sites. Development of these parcels for residential home sites would result in the loss of excellent condition habitat and may impede mule deer fall and spring migrations. The degree of displacement is a function of home site densities (lot sizes) and corresponding intensity of human activities. The development of parcels containing excellent condition habitat would cause a greater loss of wildlife value compared with the development of poor condition habitat. Human activities (e.g., fences, houses, dogs) associated with development can also disturb and displace deer and other big and small game from their migration routes. Human activity associated with residential development would be a long-term impact.

Parcel 2 (Pickles Butte) is currently in poor condition and receives a high degree of human disturbance by OHV users, and as such, most wildlife use has been displaced from the area. This level of use and attendant wildlife impact would continue or increase if Canyon County converted all or a portion of the area to an off-road recreation area.

Lands near Parcel 1 (Clay Peak) are home to a relatively large population of Southern Idaho ground squirrels, a candidate species that currently receives substantial human disturbance from off-road motorcycle use and landfill-related traffic. Payette County has recognized the importance of the species, and is in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the species. Disposal of Parcel 1 would not occur unless and until a CCAA is in place.

Parcel 18 contains Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat. The vegetation on the parcel is in fair condition, having moderate to high value for sharp-tails. This parcel, however, is isolated and has no legal access. Based on current uses of surrounding private land, it is not expected that the use of the parcel would change following disposal. It would continue to be grazed. The loss of Parcel 18 would do little to reduce overall sharp-tailed grouse habitat in the area or region. BLM has spent a significant amount of funding to acquire title or development rights to private lands in and around the Hixon Sharp-tail Preserve, located approximately 15 air miles southwest of Parcel 18. BLM will continue to acquire lands or interests therein, as opportunities allow, to ensure the long-term availability of high quality habitat for this and other associated species.

2.5.2.2 No Action

Public land would continue to be managed by BLM for multiple uses. Wildlife habitat values would continue to be affected negatively by unmanaged off-highway vehicle use.

2.6 Cultural Resources

2.6.1 Affected Environment – Cultural Resources

The BLM preserves and protects cultural resources under a variety of laws. Each parcel being considered for disposal was inventoried by an archaeologist to determine if it contained cultural resources. If cultural resources were identified, they were recorded and evaluated to determine their significance. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted about all parcels being proposed for sale, whether or not they contained known cultural resources.

Inventories revealed that the following parcels contain no cultural resources: Parcels 1, 4, 5, 6, 18, 22, 23, and 29.

Parcel 2 contains two historic scatters that were interpreted as sheepherding camps, and one lithic scatter. The lithic scatter lacked integrity because it was interpreted as unauthorized artifact and rock collecting that was gathered from some other location and dumped near Pickles Butte, along with other modern trash and yard wastes.

Parcel 3 contained a small scatter of historic debris.

Parcel 17 contained two prehistoric lithic scatters.

The remaining 24 parcels contained cultural or historic resources determined to not be significant, and as such, the resources were not formally recorded. These resources included highways, roads, two-track roads, trails, fences, and land survey monuments. Some parcels also contained modern trash and litter deposits.

2.6.2 Environmental Consequences - Cultural Resources

2.6.2.1 Proposed Action

Because federal cultural resource protection laws do not apply to state, county or private lands, the disposal of public land is considered an adverse effect to significant cultural properties.

The sale of the following parcels is considered “No Effect” because they were determined to contain no cultural resources: Parcels 1, 4, 5, 6, 18, 22, 23, and 29. Disposal of the 24 parcels that contain non-significant cultural or historic resources would also be a “No Effect.”

SHPO concluded that the proposed sale of Parcels 2 and 3 is a “No Effect” because existing sites were considered not significant and were adequately recorded.

SHPO originally considered the sale of Parcel 17 to be an “Adverse Effect” because the parcel contained two prehistoric lithic scatters that were determined to be significant historic properties. BLM mitigated this adverse effect by performing an additional cultural survey and recordation of the area. Recordation included additional site sketches, photographs and descriptions. Based on the additional information collected about the sites, SHPO has now determined that the sale of parcel 17 is a “No Adverse Effect”.

2.6.2.2 No Action

Public land parcels would remain under federal management. Therefore, cultural resources would continue to be protected by federal laws.

2.7 Hazardous Materials

2.7.1 Affected Environment - Hazardous Materials

An Initial Assessment was completed to identify Recognized Environmental Conditions which could affect the subject property, and to determine if further inquiry was needed to assess Recognized Environmental Conditions for purposes of appropriate inquiry. This assessment meets the requirements of PL 99-499, “The Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986", Section 120(h). This section covers “each deed entered into for the transfer of property by the United States”, with requirements to determine if hazardous substances were stored, released, or disposed of on those lands being transferred. This report is available in the case file. It was determined there are no Recognized Environmental Conditions on the subject properties.

2.7.2 Environmental Consequences - Hazardous Materials

2.7.2.1 Proposed Action

Because there is no evidence of hazardous materials on the identified parcels, there would be no impacts related to hazardous materials from offering these parcels for sale.

2.7.2.2 No Action

Since the subject lands would remain in federal ownership, there would be no effects from hazardous materials.

2.8 Livestock Grazing Administration

2.8.1 Affected Environment – Livestock Grazing Administration

Livestock grazing is the primary use authorized on the affected public lands. Livestock grazing

is authorized on about 3654.63 acres of public land proposed for sale. The remaining approximate 1306.56 acres are not within a grazing allotment. Thirteen allotments and 13 grazing permittees would be affected by the proposed land sales (Table 2). Seven allotments and one pasture out of an eighth allotment would have all public lands within their boundaries transferred to private ownership. The remaining five allotments would have grazing preference reduced in proportion to the amount of public land being sold. A total of 627 AUMs would be canceled (Table 2).

Table 2. Grazing permits affected by proposed land sales in the Four Rivers Field Office.

Allotments	To be Disposed		AUMs,	
	Acres	Percent of Allotment	Total in Allotment	To be canceled
County Line #17	80.00	100%	9	9
French Corner #25	958.64	54%	370	200
South Pasture of Tennison Creek #61 *	80.18	100%	11	11
Sand Hollow #124	80.00	05%	147	7
Home Ranch #132	73.45	06%	219	13
Soldier Creek Ranch #182	44.23	100%	8	8
Bacon Creek #199	80.00	100%	9	9
Clipper Flat #204	1,118.00	100%	197	197
Simplot Cattle Company #238	80.23	25%	67	17
Holland Gulch #301	40.00	01%	533	5
Skow FFR #303	40.00	100%	6	6
Grouse Ridge #20122	160.00	100%	9	9
Dry Lake #0307	820.00	84%	136	136
TOTAL	**3654.63**		**1,721**	**627**

* Tennison Creek Allotment has two pastures on which two different permittees hold grazing authorizations. This allotment is not operated as a community allotment (each permittee uses the pasture he is licensed to use), therefore only one permittee and only one pasture is being affected by this sales proposal.

BLM records show only one existing range improvement project in the parcels proposed for sale. This project is an approximate ¼ mile long barbed wire fence located in the Grouse Ridge Allotment. The fence was constructed in 1945 as an allotment boundary along the west side of the NW¼NW¼ of Section 13, T. 15 N., R. 2 W. All public lands in this allotment are proposed for sale. Due to its age and condition, ownership of this range improvement would be transferred to the new owner at no cost.

2.8.2 Environmental Consequences – Livestock Grazing Administration

2.8.2.1 Proposed Action

Many of the public land parcels are isolated by large tracts of private land. Thus, livestock grazing seasons and stocking rates are influenced by the management of the surrounding private

lands.

There would be minimal direct or indirect impacts to grazing permitees from the sale of public lands. For the most part, current stocking rates would remain unchanged if public lands were sold to private ownership. Of the 13 permittees that could be affected by this sale proposal, one permitee trails across the Dry Lake allotment, but owns no land adjacent to it. The other12 permittees own the private lands around the public lands being sold. These permittees would continue to use their private land for grazing whether or not their public land grazing permits were canceled in whole or in part. If someone other than a permittee purchased one of the parcels, the permittee would continue managing his private land in the current manner. Since the parcels are considered "Open Range," the purchaser would be responsible for fencing livestock off their land, if they did not want grazing to occur. Therefore, immediate impacts to the permittee's grazing operation would be minimal. In some cases, transferring the public land parcels to private ownership (especially if the permittee is the purchaser) would increase the rancher's management flexibility.

2.8.2.2 No Action

Current authorized livestock grazing would continue on the public land, any adverse effects of which could be assessed and mitigated through regular rangeland health monitoring and assessment. All but five of the grazing allotments have been assessed, and associated grazing authorizations have been renewed for a ten-year term. Of these five allotments, rangeland health assessments and permit renewals would follow the reissuing of livestock grazing permits process identified in Instruction Memorandum ID-2004-086. One would be expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2007; two would be expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2008; and two would be expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2010.

On the eight allotments that have received assessment work, permit expirations would begin in February 2011. These allotments would need to be assessed and permits would need to be renewed following whatever process is in place at that time.

2.9 Minerals

2.9.1 Affected Environment - Minerals

The public land parcels are underlain by either granitic rocks of the Idaho Batholith, basaltic rocks of the Columbia River Group, lake and stream sediments, silts, sands and gravels, or recent stream gravels of the Idaho Group. All public lands in this proposal are considered to have only nominal mineral value, with a low potential for economic development.

2.9.2 Environmental Consequences - Minerals

2.9.2.1 Proposed Action

All sales would include both surface and mineral estates: however, since the parcels contain no prospectively valuable mineral resources, no impacts to minerals would occur.

2.9.2.2 No Action

Minerals would remain in public ownership, which would have little if any effect on the subject parcels, since the nominal mineral values are not high enough to warrant surface disturbing exploration activities.

2.10 Recreation

2.10.1 Affected Environment - Recreation

Of the parcels proposed for sale, eight are directly accessible by a road (public or private), and five directly abut either federal or state (Department of Lands) land (Table 3). The remaining parcels have no legal public road access. The majority of public lands proposed for sale are surrounded by private land, and thus, recreational access is at the discretion of the adjoining private land owner.

For the most part, parcels identified for sale do not possess unique recreation features nor are they currently being used for intensive use or destination recreation. Exceptions are Parcel 1 (Clay Peak) and Parcel 2 (Pickles Butte), which support substantial OHV use. Payette County currently operates the Clay Peak Motorcycle Park on Parcel 1 under the authority of a Recreation and Public Purposes Lease. Parcel 2 receives many types of dispersed recreation use, including OHV. The OHV use is expected to increase because the current use would be moved off the existing county property as the Pickles Butte Sanitary Landfill increases in size.

Parcel 4, located on the banks of the North Fork of the Payette River, has some potential for public recreational use, such as fishing and boating. The City of Cascade, Idaho has expressed interest in obtaining this parcel for public purposes, and the Southern Valley County Recreation District has identified a portion of the parcel as suitable for a segment of a proposed public trail (greenway) corridor.

Other parcels may offer recreational opportunities for dispersed casual recreation use, such as hunting, wildlife viewing, walking/hiking, or occasional OHV use. As many of these parcels are not considered to be high quality upland game or big game habitat, hunting use is considered to be low.

Table 3. Public accessibility of parcels identified for sale, Four Rivers Field Office.

Parcel No.	Access	Description of Access
1	vehicle	adjacent to state highway
2	vehicle	county roads through parcel
3	vehicle	roads through parcel although may not be public access
4	Foot	adjacent to Payette River
5	vehicle	county roads adjacent to parcel
6	vehicle	county roads through parcels
17	vehicle	crossed by state highway and county road

18	vehicle	road runs along southern edge of tract
22	vehicle	county road through west side
23	Foot	adjacent to Parcel 22
26	Foot	adjacent to Parcel 23
29	Foot	county road through BLM land south of tract then walk through BLM then through state land* to this tract ¼+ mile (air miles)
35	Foot	adjacent to Parcel 22

*disposal of the state land could result in loss of access

2.10.2 Environmental Consequences - Recreation

2.10.2.1 Proposed Action

Since there is no way to determine whether a successful bidder would allow continued recreational access, access to some parcels may be lost. However, the majority of the parcels are surrounded by private land, and currently have no legal access. As such, disposal of these parcels into private ownership would not change the existing access situation. Access to lands currently accessible by roads may continue to be available, particularly if acquired by the adjacent landowners who have historically allowed access. Lands adjacent to State of Idaho lands would likely continue to be accessible from the State Land, but at the discretion of the State lessee.

Parcels 1 and 2 would be acquired by the respective county governments and recreation use would be expected to increase under their management. Public recreation access and use would increase on Parcel 4 if it is acquired by the City of Cascade, Idaho.

2.10.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, land use and management of public land parcels would remain as described in the Affected Environment section. Recreation use would be unaffected.

2.11 Social and Economics

2.11.1 Affected Environment – Social and Economics

The Payments in Lieu Of Taxes Act of 1976 authorized payments by the federal government to local governments for certain kinds of federal lands designated as “entitlement lands.” Table 4 includes a listing of the projected PILT payments that could be lost by county, as well as the potential increase in property tax following sale of public parcels. The estimated PILT payments are based on the 2007 Congressional appropriation. The actual PILT payment, however, could increase or decrease, depending on changes in county population, grazing receipts, minerals payments, Congressional appropriations, etc. The property tax rate is based on an assumed highest and best use of the properties. However, the respective counties may value the parcels differently.

Table 4. Estimated PILT payments that would be lost and potential property taxes that would be gained by counties following land sales.

County	PILT Payments potentially lost	Estimated Property Taxes Post-sale
Ada	$100.00	0
Adams	$100.00	$5200.00
Boise	0	$100.00
Canyon	$1600.00	$16,500.00
Gem	$700.00	$150.00
Payette	$3800.00	$103,500.00
Valley	0	0
Washington	$200.00	$60.00

2.11.2 Environmental Consequences – Social and Economics

2.11.2.1 Proposed Action

Overall, property tax increases would greatly exceed the loss of PILT payments caused by the transfer of public lands to private ownership. Where losses exist, they would be negligible.

Once transferred into private ownership, a number of the parcels would be taxed at a higher rate in areas where the land is valued for more than dryland grazing, such as areas where development is occurring. In these cases, affected counties would benefit economically from the land sales, since they would only be foregoing the relatively small PILT payments shown above. Sale of public lands having potential for residential development would contribute to a continuing trend of population expansion and community development in Idaho, which would certainly benefit the economies of the affected counties.

Counties showing a zero net gain in property taxes include parcels that will be transferred to a local governmental or other non-taxable entity.

Each Federal agency must identify and address as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies an activities on minority populations and low income populations in the United States (Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994). Since this project would simply result in a transfer from federal to private ownership, it is not expected to create any disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental consequences to minority or low income populations.

2.11.2.2 No Action

There would be no changes in the economic situation under this alternate. There would also be no impacts to minority populations, either beneficial or adverse, from retaining the identified

parcels in public ownership

2.12 Water Rights

2.12.1 Affected Environment – Water Rights

Where applicable, water rights have been administratively established through State permits and licenses on both the public and the private lands. These rights are mostly for stockwater and wildlife use and are usually associated with range and wildlife improvements. A limited number of water rights for other uses such as domestic and irrigation have also been administratively established through administrative license. All water rights associated with lands in the proposed sale parcels are subject to the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). As a participant in the SRBA, BLM has claimed stockwater rights to undeveloped springs, waterholes and streams on public land in addition to the administratively established water rights. The SRBA is currently underway and adjudication of these claims has yet to be completed.

2.12.2 Environmental Consequences - Water Rights

2.12.2.1 Proposed Action

The amount of water appropriated in stock water and wildlife water rights is generally too small to be used for anything other than stock and wildlife; however, water rights could be combined with other water rights and changed to a different use. Any change in use would require prior approval from Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). Individuals acquiring any of the public lands being considered for sale in this proposal would be provided an opportunity to apply for a transfer of any existing water right(s) held by BLM. If they did not apply for the water right(s), the rights would be terminated under conditions set by the IDWR.

2.12.2.2 No Action

Water rights would remain unchanged.

2.13 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are the incremental impacts of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. For this action, the region being assessed for cumulative impacts extends from Boise west to the Snake River, and from Boise to the northern end of Cascade Reservoir and then west to the Snake River. Cumulative impacts would include efficiencies in public land management related to reducing the number of public land parcels that are isolated, and difficult and uneconomic to manage.

Twelve of the 13 grazing permits involved with this proposal were previously included in the 2003 Cascade Land Exchange, but for a variety of reasons were not transferred at that time. Therefore, this action is no different than other land transfers that have taken place in the past, nor is it different than what would be expected from any future disposal actions. Livestock grazing would continue within the community, except that it would be managed as private

industry dictates instead of by the BLM.

Private lands in the affected areas would continue to be developed regardless of whether the public lands are transferred into private ownership. The incremental impact of potential development on the selected public lands would be minimal compared with ongoing and expected development of private lands. The proposed action would have negligible influence on the timing or extent of expected development.

3.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

3.1 Public Participation and Notification Summary

January 13, 2006 – Publication of Federal Register "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Amendment to the Cascade Resource Management Plan"

The Payette County Commissioners and BLM co-hosted a public meeting on June 26, 2006. The meeting specifically addressed the County's intent to purchase up to 948.04 acres of public land currently used as the Clay Peak Motorcycle Park, and generally addressed the other sale proposals. BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel were present at the meeting to provide information on the proposed sale, including concerns about the Southern Idaho ground squirrel (SIDGS), a candidate species that may warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The Canyon County Commissioners and BLM co-hosted a public meeting on May 15, 2006. The meeting specifically addressed the County's intent to purchase up to 980 acres of public land near Pickles Butte, and generally addressed the other sale proposals. Rosemary Thomas, Four Rivers Field Manager, represented BLM at this meeting.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 4110.4-2(b), grazing permittees must be given two years prior notice before their grazing permit or grazing preference is canceled. If permittees do not unconditionally waive the two-year notification, the affected public lands may be transferred subject to the existing grazing permit until the end of the two year period, after which the permit automatically terminates. Parcels 6 through 35 were previously included in the 2003 Cascade Land Exchange (Environmental Assessment #ID-110-1998-EA-056). As part of the Cascade Land Exchange process, permittees were provided a two-year notification that their permits may be canceled. Thus, sufficient notification has already occurred for these 30 parcels. For all or portions of parcels 1 through 5 that are currently being grazed, two-year notifications have yet to be issued.

In the past, BLM has consulted with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe concerning Parcels 6 through 35, that were originally included in the Cascade Land Exchange (CLE), which had the same objective of transferring the parcels out of federal ownership. The CLE was discussed at the *Wings and Roots Native American Campfire* consultation meetings on 3/19/1998, 6/25/1998, 8/9/1999, 7/13/200, 9/28/2000 and 1/18/2001. Ultimately, however, Parcels 6 through 35 were not transferred out of Federal ownership, and so are now being offered for sale. The Pickles Butte Land Sale proposal was introduced at the 5/22/2003 *Wings and Roots Native American Campfire* consultation meeting. The combined land sale package was brought up for discussion on 5/17/2007.

The BLM originally consulted with the Idaho SHPO on the CLE in December 2000. Consultation letters continued into January, March and April 2001 and concluded in January 2002. Concurrence was received from the Idaho SHPO on 1/8/2001 for parcel 6; on 9/4/2002 for parcel 4; on 5/2/2003 for parcel 5; on 12/16/2005 for parcel 1; and on 7/3/2007 for parcels 2 and

3. Consultation with the Idaho SHPO is ongoing.

3.2 Public Comment

Public comment for the sale or exchange of the public lands identified for disposal in the Cascade RMP has been ongoing for many years. The main interest in these early public comments (usually phone conversations and meetings) has been how soon BLM would proceed with disposal of specific parcels identified for disposal. These comments have almost always supported the disposal of the land and have usually been from the adjacent landowner and/or the grazing permittee. The sentiment most often expressed by these people has been that due to location, local land ownership, and small size of the tracts, BLM cannot effectively manage the tract(s) and it would be more appropriate for the tract(s) to be in private ownership.

No letters were received in response to the publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Amendment to the Cascade RMP or the public meetings.

3.3 Public Review of EA

This predecisional EA will be made available to the public for a 30-day comment period. The document will be available on the internet, via a CD, or by hard copy if requested. Only written comments will be accepted, either through the mail or via e-mail.

If no significant impacts are identified and the proposed action is approved, the BLM would issue a Decision Record/Rationale and Finding of No Significant Impact. A Notice of Realty Action (NORA) would subsequently be published in the Federal Register, notifying the public of the decision to amend the Cascade RMP and to offer the subject public lands for direct or competitive sale. The NORA would also provide an opportunity for protest of the decision.

4.0 PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Preparers

Rosemary Thomas	Four Rivers Field Manager
John Sullivan	Assistant Four Rivers Field Manager
Mary Clark	Rangeland Management Specialist
Mike O'Donnell	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Mark Steiger	Botanist
Frank Jenks	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Pat Kane	Weeds
Tim Carrigan	Wildlife Biologist
Effie Schultsmeier	Realty Specialist
Paul Seronko	Environmental Protection Specialist
Dean Shaw	Archaeologist
Clinton Hughes	Geologist

CHAPTER 7 - CONCLUSION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Cascade RMP be amended to classify the following-described parcels as suitable for disposal out of federal ownership.

Parcel 1. Lands that comprise the existing Clay Peak Motorcycle Park that are proposed for direct sale to Payette County.

T. 8 N., R. 5 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho
section 1: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S½NE¼, SW¼NW¼, S½;
section 2: Lots 1 & 2, S½NE¼, NE¼SE¼; that portion of NW¼SE¼ lying north and east of the highway
section 12: N½NE¼, that portion of SW¼NE¼, NW¼ lying north and east of the highway;
Aggregating approximately 948.04 acres, more or less.

Parcel 2. Lands proposed for direct sale to Canyon County to be used as a buffer zone around the Pickles Butte Sanitary Landfill, for expansion of an existing shooting range, and for additional dispersed and OHV recreation.

T. 2 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 20: S½SW¼, SW¼SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
section 21: NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼; E½SW¼NE¼, E½W½SE¼;
section 28: NE¼NE¼, NW¼NE¼; N½NW¼, S½N½, N½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
section 29: NE¼NE¼, NW¼NE¼;
Aggregating approximately 820.00 acres, more or less.

Parcel 3. An isolated parcel near the City of Star that would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 5 N., R. 1 W., Boise Meridian, Ada County, Idaho
section 31: N½SE¼;
Containing 80.00 acres, more or less

Parcel 4. An isolated parcel near Cascade, Idaho, that would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 14 N., R. 3 E., Boise Meridian, Valley County, Idaho
section 25: Lot 13;
Containing 8.76 acres, more or less

Parcel 5. An isolated parcel located near existing developments in Canyon County that would be offered for competitive sale.

T. 3 N., R. 3 W., Boise Meridian, Canyon County, Idaho
section 15: Lots 2 and 3;
Containing 29.57 acres, more or less.

It is further recommended that all of the public lands described herein, including those described above, be sold by direct or competitive sale, as proposed herein, subject to the following requirements:

1. The sales would include both surface and mineral estates.

2. The sales would be consummated subject to Federal reservations and valid existing rights, as described herein.

3. The sales would be consummated at no less than appraised fair market value.

4. Following issuance of patents, affected grazing permits would be canceled or adjusted in accordance with grazing regulations.

RATIONALE

The 35 parcels of public land described herein have been evaluated and found to meet the disposal criteria outlined in Sections 203 and 206 of FLPMA. Some of the parcels are needed for community expansion purposes. The parcels are generally small and isolated, are not needed for Federal purposes, are difficult and uneconomic to manage, and would be better managed in private or local government ownership. Based upon this analysis, the public interest would be well served by disposing of the subject parcels.

Cascade Land Sales

R 4 W

R 1 W

T 17 N

T 15 N

T 10 N

T 8 N

Cuddy Mountain

Sturgill Peak

Riley Butte

Squaw Butte

Adams

Washington

Payette

Gem

Boise

Valley

Map Legend

- Interstate
- Highway
- Highway
- Other Roads
- Major River
- Major Water Body

Proposed Cascade Land Sales

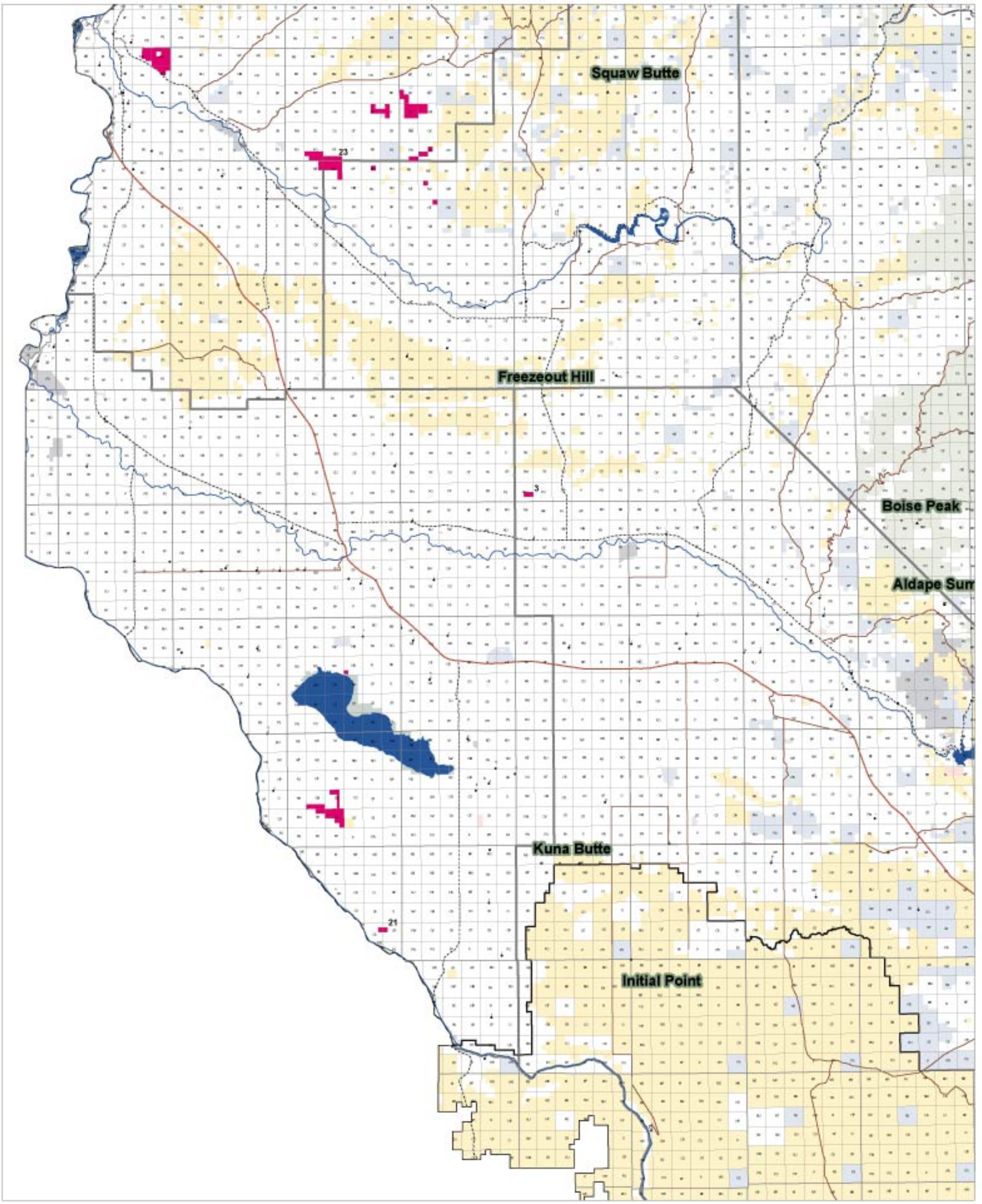
- Proposed Sales
- NCA Birds of Prey Boundary
- Four Rivers Field Office Boundary
- County Boundary
- Township and Range
- BLM
- Military
- National Park Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Private
- State
- State Fish and Game
- State Other
- State Parks
- USFS
- Water

1:100,000

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

N W E S

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregation with other data is not guaranteed. The surface management status ("land ownership") should not be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land. Roads crossing public lands may be closed without notice by the land management agency. Public domain lands surrounded by private land may not be accessible. Permission is required from private landowners to cross private land, unless access is provided by a Federal, State or County road, or a BLM road with legal access.


Squaw Butte
23
Freezeout Hill
3
Boise Peak
Aldape Sum
Kuna Butte
21
Initial Point