

Chapter 1

Introduction



Resource Management Plan Description and Implementation.

This document contains a Proposed Resource Management Plan (Proposed RMP or PRMP) for managing public lands within the Challis Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Idaho, and a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which analyzes the impacts of implementing the Proposed RMP. The PRMP/FEIS is based on the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) described in the Challis Draft RMP/EIS (USDI - BLM, May 1996), as modified in response to public and tribal comments and internal BLM recommendations. The PRMP/FEIS incorporates the Draft RMP/EIS by reference and should be used in conjunction with that document.

A Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a document which contains a set of comprehensive decisions concerning the use and management of the BLM-administered resources in a specific geographic area during the 15 to 20 year expected life of the RMP. The decisions recommended in this Proposed RMP are based upon approved planning criteria (Challis Draft RMP/EIS, pp. 11-12) and adhere to BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1600) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500). Three types of decisions are described in the Challis Proposed RMP:

- 1) **resource condition objectives** - the desired state the BLM would like to achieve for ecological conditions and social/economic values affected by BLM management activities and resource decisions;
- 2) **land use allocations** - the allowable, limited, or excluded uses for an area and the terms and conditions of such use; and
- 3) **management actions and direction** - the specific actions the BLM would take to achieve resource condition objectives, land use allocations, or other program or multiple use goals.

The Challis RMP would apply to approximately 792,567 acres of public lands administered by the Challis Resource Area, Upper Columbia - Salmon Clearwater Districts, BLM within Lemhi and Custer counties (see *Map 24: General Location*). The Challis Resource Area (RA) commences on the north at approximately the Hat Creek drainage, and extends southward to include the public lands in the Pahsimeroi Valley, the Big Lost River Valley to Mackay, and the Main and East Fork Salmon River valleys. The planning area is bordered almost exclusively by National Forest system lands.

The Challis RMP would be implemented following Plan approval and signing of a Record of Decision. RMP implementation would occur according to an implementation plan developed following signature of the Record of Decision. Some RMP decisions would require immediate action and be implemented upon signature of the Record of Decision for the approved RMP/FEIS. Other Plan decisions would not require immediate action, but are identified for implementation sometime during the life of the RMP (approximately 15 to 20 years). Still other Plan decisions

would require action only when (and if) an activity is initiated externally. The approved RMP would be monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis in order to determine the effectiveness of the RMP and the need for maintenance, amendment, or revision as provided for in 43 CFR 1610.4-9 and 1610.5-4 through 5-6.

Purpose of and Need for Action.

The purpose of the Challis Resource Management Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) is to identify resource condition objectives, land use allocations, and management actions and direction necessary to guide resource management on a long term, sustainable basis. The RMP is intended to fulfill requirements of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, which specifies the need for a comprehensive land use plan consistent with multiple-use and sustained yield objectives. The RMP/EIS is also intended to fulfill National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements to disclose and address environmental impacts of proposed major Federal actions through a public participation process and cooperation with other agencies.

The Challis RMP is an administrative action which applies to a specified management area, and is a general management plan rather than a site-specific proposal. It is expected to guide resource management in the Challis Resource Area during the next 15 to 20 years. The Challis RMP will replace the BLM's existing land management guidance for the Challis Resource Area contained in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1982), the Challis MFP (1979), and the Mackay MFP (1983). The Challis RMP will also amend the portions of the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP (1981) pertaining to management of public lands in the Donkey Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which lie within the boundaries of the Big Butte Resource Area. The Challis RMP may alter decisions or directions contained in other existing BLM decision documents.

Planning Record.

The Planning Record for the Challis RMP/EIS contains information pertinent to the planning process, such as documents used to develop the Challis RMP; the Notice of Intent; public and tribal response to scoping and the Draft RMP/EIS; planning criteria approval; records of public meetings; consultation and coordination efforts; and analysis of the management situation (except proprietary information). The Planning Record for the Challis RMP/EIS is available for public review at the Salmon Field Office - BLM, Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho.

Preparers.

The Challis PRMP/FEIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team (ID team) whose members differed somewhat from the ID team who prepared the Challis Draft RMP/EIS (see Draft RMP/EIS, pp. 342-344). A “core team” had primary responsibility for preparing the PRMP/FEIS and was assisted by other members of the ID team. *Table 1-1: List of Preparers* specifies the ID team members who participated in preparation of the Challis PRMP/FEIS.

Three BLM employees provided illustrations for the PRMP/FEIS. **Steve Wright**, archaeologist with the Lemhi Resource Area, Salmon Field Office, prepared the illustrations on the Proposed RMP divider page (“multiple use”), page 106 (aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat areas), p. 207 (wickiup), p. 295 (spotted knapweed, leafy spurge), and p. 347 (lady’s shoe). **Eva Teseo**, visual arts specialist with the Idaho State Office - BLM, prepared the illustrations on p. 324 (bald eagle), p. 607 (steelhead trout), and p. 631 (westslope cutthroat trout). **Glenn Elzinga**, forester for the Lemhi and Challis Resource Areas, provided the illustration of wavy leaf thelypody on page 279.

Anna Owsiak of Salmon, Idaho is credited with taking the bighorn sheep photo on page 119 and the elk photo on page 277.

Table 1-1: List of Preparers

Name	Primary RMP/EIS Responsibilities	Related Experience and Academic Credentials
<i>Decision Maker</i>		
Renee Snyder	Overall Management Direction.	BLM - Area Manager (6 years). B.S., Earth Science. 1980. Montana State University.
<i>Core ID Team Members - Primary Preparers</i>		
Kathe Rhodes	RMP Coordinator; ID Team Leader.	BLM - Planning and Envir. Coord./External Affairs (6 years); Chief - Admin. Services (3 yr.); Program/Budget Analyst (3 years).
Craig Nemeth	Technical Coordinator; Livestock Grazing; Wild Horses and Burros; Vegetation; Land Tenure; Fire Management.	BLM - Range Conservationist (20 years). B.S., Forestry. 1972. University of Montana.
Bill Diage	Water Resources (Upland Watershed, Riparian Areas, Floodplain/Wetland Areas, Water Quality, Minimum Streamflow); Soils.	BLM - Rangeland Ecologist (5 years), Soil/Vegetation Survey Party Leader (4 years), Range Conservationist (10 years). B.S., Soil Science. 1979. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.
Jerry Gregson	Wildlife; Minerals; Wilderness Study Areas; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Biological Diversity.	BLM - Wildlife Biologist (17 years); Range Cons. (2 years). B.S., Wildlife and Range. 1978. Arizona State University.

Name	Primary RMP/EIS Responsibilities	Related Experience and Academic Credentials
Evalyn Bennett	Writer-Editor.	BLM/USFS - Writer/Editor (6 years). U. of MT, U. of CA, U. of KY - Technical Writing (3 years). M.S. Ed., Counseling Psychology. 1986. University of Kentucky. B.A., Sociology. 1983. Dartmouth College.
Kate Forster	Fisheries.	BLM/USFS - Fisheries Biologist (7 years); IDFG - Senior Fisheries Technician (4 years). B.S., Water Resources - Fisheries. 1986. University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.
Other Contributing ID Team Members		
Russ Riebe	Rangeland Management.	BLM - Rangeland Management Specialist (16 years); USFS - Range Technician (3 years) B.S. Forestry, Range Management. 1979. University of Montana.
Linda Clark	Cultural Resources; Tribal Treaty Rights; Paleontological Resources.	BLM, USFS, Private - Archaeologist (15 years). Master of Arts in Integrated Science (MAIS), Archaeology/Geography/Soil Science. 1988. Oregon State University. B.A., Anthropology. 1983. Eastern Washington University.
Pete Sozzi	Recreation; Wild and Scenic Rivers; Off-highway Vehicle Use; Visual Resources.	BLM - Outdoor Recreation Planner (18 years); Ranger (3 years). National Park Service - Ranger (2 years). B.S., Natural Resources Management. 1975. California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo.
Glenn Elzinga	Forest Resources.	BLM - Forester (7 years); Forestry Technician (2 years). Private - Surveying Tech./Forestry Tech. (5 years). B.S., Forest Management. 1987. University of Maine - Orono.
John Martin	Economics.	USDI (BLM, Minerals Mgmt Service) - Economist (20 years). USDA - Statistician (1 year). M.S., Ag. and Natural Res. Economics. 1974. U. of NV - Reno. B.S., Agricultural Business Management. 1972. California Polytechnic State University.
Gloria Romero	Land Tenure and Access; Realty.	BLM - Realty Specialist (6 years), Range Conservationist (9 years). B.S., Range Management. 1985. New Mexico State University.
Pam Berain	Cartography.	BLM - Cartographic Technician - Mapping/GIS (15 years), Conveyances Clerk (2 years). Undergraduate studies - Earth Science. 1995-present. Boise State University, Boise, Idaho.
Cynthia Weston	Fisheries.	BLM - Fisheries Biologist (5 years). M.S., Biology (Aquatic/Fisheries Biology and Ecology). 1997. Murray State University, Murray, KY. B.S., Biology. 1988. Northland College, Ashland, WI.

Corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS.

This section lists corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS (USDI - BLM, May 1996); all Volume, Chapter, and page number references correspond to the Draft RMP/EIS. This list should be considered an errata sheet to the Draft RMP/EIS. When appropriate, these corrections are also incorporated in the PRMP/FEIS.

Volume 1

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pp. 14-16: Table 1-1 inadvertently omitted reference to the following documents which were used to prepare the Draft RMP/EIS:

"Other Agencies' Plans":

Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest (1988)

Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest (1989)

"MOU's, Agreements..."

Procedures for Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination in Matters Relating to Allotment Management Planning (BLM - Idaho and Idaho Dept. of Agriculture; April 1989)

Idaho State/BLM Exchange Strategy - Direction for a Long-term Cooperative Exchange Program (BLM - Idaho Dept. of Lands; August 1987)

Chapter 3

p. 80: In the first sentence, the date for the most recent Timber Production Capability Classification inventory should read "1984." The correct spelling of the scientific name for Douglas-fir stated in the third line of the "Forest Communities" subsection is "*Pseudotsuga menziesii*."

p. 81: The date of the source for Table 3-4 should be the 1984 Timber Production Capability Classification inventory. The correct spelling of the scientific name for mountain snowberry stated in the second-to-last-line is "*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*."

p. 91: The sixth sentence in paragraph 1 lists an incorrect CFR citation for obtaining public access. The citation should read "43 CFR 2130."

p. 125: The correct legal description for the first entry in Table 3-20 (Road Creek - Road #1902) is T9N, R20E, Sections 1 and 12.

p. 147: On the second line the word "dominant" should be "dominate."

p. 163: Table 3-35 contained an error in how the number of elk were listed. An estimated 350 to 1,550 elk are on public lands from 5/1 to 11/30, and 3,150 to 6,100 elk are on public lands from 12/1 to 4/30.

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p. 172: In Table 3-36 under "Category 2 Candidate," the species listed as "North American lynx" should be named "Canada lynx."

p. 174: In the first sentence of paragraph one, Marco Creek (EF-28) was incorrectly listed as an eligible stream. Marco Creek is not free-flowing, and is therefore not eligible as a Wild and Scenic River (Challis Resource Area National Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report; March 1993, p. 19). The number of eligible segments should be "five" and the phrase "(Marco Creek (EF-28)," should be deleted.

p. 175: Table 3-37 incorrectly lists "EF-28 Marco Creek" under the column heading "East Fork Salmon R. Drainage" - Marco Creek is not an eligible stream (delete this entry).

Chapter 4

p. 184a, Alternative 2, #11: The word "cottonwood" should be hyphenated "cotton-wood."

p. 185a, Alternative 2, #14: The acreage should be "28,826" acres, not "228,826" acres.

p. 202a, Alternative 2, #19: The correct mileage for the physical road closure of the Devil's Canyon Road is 1/2-mile, not one mile (see Volume 2, Management Concern: Cultural Resource Management, Goal 1, #13, Alternative 2, p. 437a) .

p. 220b, Alternative 5, #24: The cross reference in parentheses should read "(see Roads and Transportation, #19 above)."

p. 244a, Alternative 2, #2 and 5: These analysis statements should be revised to say that no surface occupancy stipulations would apply to anadromous fish and bull trout watersheds (see Volume 2, Management Concern: Oil, Gas, Geothermal, Leasable and Saleable Minerals, Goal 1, #7, Alternative 2, p. 422a).

p. 246a, Alternative 2, #11: The analysis should be revised to say that suitable WSAs released from wilderness review would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (see Volume 2, Management Concern: Oil, Gas, Geothermal, Leasable and Saleable Minerals, Goal 3, #3, Alternative 2, p. 424a).

p. 253: Table 4-18 should be revised as follows, to be consistent with corrections to Management Concern: Oil, Gas, Geothermal, Leasable and Saleable Minerals, Goal 1, #4, Goal 2, #6, and Goal 3, #3 (see Volume 2 corrections below, pp. 421a/b, 423a/b, and 424a/b): Under "Oil, Gas, Geothermal" closures, add "WSAs - 140,260 acres - all alternatives" and revise the acreage totals; under "Non-energy Leasing" add "WSAs - 140,260 acres - all alternatives" and revise the acreage totals; under "Locatable Minerals" replace WSAs - 140,260 acres with "0" acres, all alternatives, and revise the acreage totals.

Chapter 5

p. 343: Table 5-1 - the related experience discussion for Frank Bird should be corrected to read "OR/WY/AK Fish & Game" rather than "OR/WA/ID Fish & Game"

Volume 2

p. 384a/b, #13, Alternatives 1-5: The reader should be referred to the riparian area management described in Management Concern: Oil, Gas.... Goal 2, #8, rather than Goal 2, #9 (see p. 424a).

p. 394a, Lake Creek (EF-13): Add fisheries as an OR value.

p. 394a/b, Alternatives 1-5, Marco Creek (EF-28): Delete these decisions, since Marco Creek is not free-flowing and is therefore not an eligible river.

p. 402b, #3, Alternative 5: Alternative 5 management should be revised to say "The Malm Gulch/Germer Basin ACEC would be closed to OHV use," to be consistent with Management Concern: Off-highway Vehicle Use, Goal 1, #2, p. 433b.

pp. 404a/b, Summit Creek ACEC, #2: To be consistent with Management Concern: Off-highway Vehicle Use, Goal 1, #2 (pp. 433a/b), Alternative 2 should read: "Motorized travel would be restricted to the Howe-May Road and the area south of the existing campground road," Alternative 3 should read: "Motorized travel would be restricted to the Howe-May Road," and Alternative 5 should read: "Same as Alternative 3."

p. 414, #10, Alternative 2: The word "seedings" should be replaced with the word "seedlings."

p. 414a, Alternative 1, #14: Existing management should be described as "Firewood cutting permits would be issued."

p. 421a/b, Alternatives 1-5, Goal 1, #4: The first sentence in parentheses should be corrected to read "Currently, all WSAs are closed to oil, gas, and geothermal leasing."

p. 423a/b, Alternatives 1-5, Goal 2, #6: Revise the sentence in parentheses to read: "Currently, all WSAs are closed to non-energy minerals leasing." Alternative 2: revise to say "... nonsuitable WSAs would be opened to non-energy minerals leasing, subject to standard stipulations."

p. 424a/b, Alternatives 1-5, Goal 3, #3: Revise the sentence in parentheses to read: "Currently, all WSAs are open to locatable mineral entry, subject to restrictions defined in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1995: 36-38);...."

p. 433a/b: #1, Alternatives 1 and 5: The beginning of the first sentence should be corrected to read "Except for the specific areas listed in #2 through 10 and #12 below...."

p. 433b, #2: Correct Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 5 as stated below, to be consistent with management stated elsewhere in the Draft RMP (Volume 2):

Alternative 1: Add the following OHV management for existing ACECs: "The Antelope Flat, Cronk's Canyon, East Fork Salmon River Bench, Peck's Canyon, and Thousand Springs ACECs would be open to motorized vehicle use. Motorized vehicle use in the Lake Creek ACEC would be limited to existing roads and vehicle ways. Motorized vehicle travel in the Summit Creek ACEC would be limited to the existing Howe-May road, the Summit Creek campground, and areas outside the enclosure."

Alternative 2: Add the following: "In the Herd Creek Watershed ACEC, the existing trail above Herd Lake would be closed to all motorized vehicle use. In the remainder of the area, motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing roads and vehicle ways."

Alternative 3: Strike the action as written. Alternative 3 should read as follows: "Same as Alternative 2, except (a) the Birch Creek ACEC would not be designated; the Birch Creek area would be open to motorized vehicle use yearlong; (b) in the Herd Creek Watershed ACEC the existing trail above Herd Lake would be maintained for motorized vehicle use if the suitable portions of the Jerry Peak WSA are released from wilderness review; and (c) motorized travel in the Summit Creek ACEC would be restricted to the Howe-May road."

Alternative 5: Add "l) Antelope Flat ACEC" to the list of ACECs which would be closed to OHV use. Also add "In the Herd Creek Watershed ACEC, the existing trail above Herd Lake would be closed to all motorized vehicle use. In the remainder of the area, motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing roads and vehicle ways."

p. 435, #9, Alternative 5: add reference to the Malm Gulch/Germer Basin ACEC as follows: "... which overlap areas closed to OHV use (*Malm Gulch/Germer Basin*, Pennal Gulch, and Birch Creek ACECs) would be "closed" to OHV use."

p. 496 (Attachment 15): In (c), "90% angle" should be corrected to read "90 degree angle."

p. 502 (Attachment 20): In the third sentence describing level 4 maintenance, "double land" should be corrected to read "double lane."

Volume 3

Appendices

pp. 544-545: Revise the acreage for three allotments to read as follows: Warm Springs Allotment - 60,173 acres; San Felipe Allotment - 81,600 acres; and Thousand Springs Allotment - 5,670 acres.

References

p. 598: The correct spelling for the author listed as "Meyers, L.H." (two bibliographic citations) is "Myers, L.H."

Maps

Map 4 (ACECs - Alternative 1): Omits a 53-acre tract of public land in the Thousand Springs ACEC on the south side of the Trail Creek Road. This error was not corrected in the PRMP/FEIS on Map 3-1: Existing ACECs, because the tract would be difficult to view on that scale of map due to its size and location.

Map 33 - OHV Use, Alternative 5: The entire Malm Gulch/Germer Basin ACEC (see Map 7) should be cross-hatched as "closed." (The portion of the ACEC within the Upper Salmon River SRMA is incorrectly shaded as "limited to existing roads and vehicle ways yearlong.") (See Draft RMP, p. 433b, Alternative 5, #2.)

Map H: Does not reflect updated range condition data for the San Felipe and Warm Springs Allotments which were displayed in Table 3-10 and Appendix F (see PRMP, Map F: Range Condition). **Note:** *Map F in the PRMP reflects this more recent range condition data.*

Map K: The suitability classification of Big Lost River "A" (BL-17) should be labeled as "Scenic," rather than "Recreational" (see PRMP, Map H: Wild and Scenic River Suitability Findings).

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