

2.E. Social and Economic Features

2.E.1. Public Safety

Profile

The safety of visitors to public land is a concern for the Jarbidge FO. When addressing public safety, the BLM is required to address abandoned mines, target shooting, unexploded ordnance, and hazardous waste. The primary concern for public safety in the Jarbidge FO is the illegal use and storage of hazardous materials and their disposal within the FO boundaries.

Abandoned Mines

The Abandoned Mine Lands Program is a national and state BLM safety priority. Emphasis has been placed on ensuring public safety and protecting watersheds from hazardous materials and mine drainage. At the FO level, the purpose of the program is to identify and characterize inactive mine sites. Hazards or potential hazards to human health, safety, and the environment are inventoried, and data are stored in a national or state database. Specific sites may be closed or remediated in order to protect human health or the environment. There are no abandoned mine lands in the planning area.

Target Shooting

There are no designated target shooting areas on public lands managed by the Jarbidge FO; however, target shooting is generally allowed on public lands. The planning area has several unofficial shooting areas in old barrow pits, gravel pits, or other disturbed areas where there is a history of such use. Clean up of targets, shell casings, and trash is required. Due to public safety concerns, shooting is specifically prohibited at developed recreation sites and at other areas as posted.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

The amount of UXO on the SCAFR is unknown. It is assumed that entrances to areas on the SCAFR where inherent UXO dangers exist would continue to be restricted. In areas where the public has access, any UXO reported and identified would be cleared and disposed of according to applicable policies and procedures of the USAF.

Hazardous Materials

There are no approved hazardous waste disposal facilities within the planning area. Hazardous material is defined as any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, may pose a real hazard to human health or the environment. Hazardous materials include flammable or combustible material, toxic material, poisonous and infectious materials, corrosive material, oxidizers, aerosols, biohazards, and compressed gases.

Hazardous materials may legitimately be brought onto BLM-administered lands during authorized weed and insect control or resource development projects. The types of hazardous materials used for weed and insect control include herbicides, algacides, and pesticides. The general types of hazardous materials that may be present during resource development projects include, but are not limited to, petroleum products (fuels and lubricants), solvents, surfactants, paints, explosives, batteries, acids, biocides, gases, and

antifreeze.

Many hazardous material incidents are a result of hazardous materials illegally disposed of on public land. These types of materials include, but are not limited to, petroleum products, household wastes, paints, biocides, and methamphetamine manufacturing wastes. The majority of the illegal dumping activity within the Jarbidge FO is of solid waste, which may not contain hazardous materials but is a problem nonetheless.

Current Management

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not contain goals, objectives, or management actions related to public safety. Public safety is managed according to BLM policy.

Management of hazardous materials; substances; and waste, including storage, transportation, and spills, will be conducted in compliance with 29 CFR 1910, 49 CFR 100-185, 40 CFR 100-400, Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Water Act, and other Federal and State regulations and policies regarding hazardous materials management.

The Jarbidge FO responds to illegal dumping of materials through law enforcement, hazardous materials response procedures, and contractor personnel. Any response to hazardous materials incidents is in conformance with approved BLM plans and procedures conforming with National and State guideline.

The Jarbidge FO ensure that lessees, permittees, and operators on land within the planning area are in compliance with all laws and regulations that pertain to hazardous materials. The Jarbidge FO provides updates to the Idaho Hazardous Materials Incident Command and Response Support Plan and the Idaho BLM Contingency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents. The plans are periodically reviewed by the Jarbidge FO and updated as needed to maintain compliance with all applicable laws and regulations that pertain to hazardous materials.

Management Opportunities

Illegal dumping will most likely continue in the future. Educating the public about the dangers of this issue and increased law enforcement presence and cooperation could help to resolve this problem. Hazardous waste disposal facilities should not be allocated or approved within the planning area in order to protect public safety and natural resources in the planning area.

GIS could assist the Jarbidge FO in managing hazardous materials by consolidating information regarding illegally disposed materials within the planning area. The use of Federal and State databases containing information regarding hazardous materials storage, use, production, and violation could help the BLM Environmental Protection Specialist remain aware of small businesses with the potential to create or use hazardous materials within the planning area. These databases could also help identify areas where illegal dumping is ongoing and where physical closures could be used to prevent the situation and reduce clean-up costs.

2.E.2. Social and Economic Conditions

Profile

The Jarbidge FO is sparsely populated with several ranches and the unincorporated towns of Hot Spring, Indian Cove, Murphy Hot Springs, Roseworth, and Three Creek. With populations under 100 people, none of the communities within the planning area has a store. Because the Jarbidge FO is so sparsely populated and its boundaries do not conform to common data collection areas, it is difficult to get statistics specific for the FO. The FO includes parts of four counties: Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties in Idaho and Elko County in Nevada. Statistics for those four counties were aggregated to provide some insight into the Jarbidge FO, as it is assumed residents of those counties are the most common users of the resources in the FO and are the most impacted by decisions in the FO.

Population of the County Aggregation

The population of the county aggregation grew by 48,432 people from 1982 to 2004, a 32% increase in population. The annual growth rate of 1.9% during this time is faster than the national rate ("Economic Profile System," 2006). The 2005 population for the four counties is 154,696 (US Census Bureau, 2007). Hispanics are the largest minority group in the four counties (6.4%) (US Census Bureau, 2007).

The population of the county aggregation aged since 1990. The median age in 2000 was 32.1, up from 30.6 in 1990. The 15-to-19 year age category makes up the largest percent of the population; however, the 45-to-49 year age category has grown the fastest ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

Employment in the County Aggregation

Over the past 34 years, job growth in the county aggregation was faster than in the Nation as a whole. Average earnings per job, adjusted for inflation, rose from \$31,263 in 1970 to \$33,012 in 2004. In 2004, average earnings per job were lower than the national average of \$44,503 ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

While proprietors²¹ contributed to 18% of new employment between 1970 and 2004, they represented a smaller share of total employment, a drop from 21.5% to 19.7% (Table 63). The number of farm proprietors decreased by 197 between 1970 and 2004. ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

Wages and salary are monetary compensations to employees, including employee contributions to certain deferred compensation programs, such as 401(k) plans. Between 1970 and 2004, wage and salary disbursements in the four counties grew at an annual rate of 2.5%, while proprietors' income grew at an annual rate of 0.7%, 1.2% for nonfarm proprietors and 0.1% for farm proprietors ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

The service category gained the most as a share of total employment, from 24.4% in 1977 to 31.4% in 1997. The retail category shrank the most, from 31.2% in 1977 to 25.0% in 1997. Agriculture remained stable at 1.7% of total employment ("Economic Profile

²¹ Includes sole proprietorships, partnerships, and tax-exempt cooperatives.

System," 2006).

Table 63. Total Employment in Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, and Elko County, Nevada, 1970 and 2004

	1970	% of Total	2004	% of Total	New Employment	% of New Employment
Wage and salary jobs	30,852	78.5%	68,611	80.3%	37,749	81.9%
Number of proprietors	8,461	21.5%	16,810	19.7%	8,349	18.1%
Number of nonfarm proprietors	5,338	13.6%	13,884	16.3%	8,546	18.5%
Number of farm proprietors	3,123	7.9%	2,926	3.4%	-197	NA
Total full-time and part-time employment	39,313	100%	85,421	100%	46,108	100%

The unemployment rate for the county aggregation was 3.7% in 2005, compared to 5.1% for the Nation. The unemployment rate varied seasonally from a high of 5.0% in January 2005 to a low of 2.9% in October 2005 ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

Agriculture and Ranching

Agriculture is big business in Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties, compared to most areas of Idaho. Net farm income was \$180 million in 2003 on cash receipts of \$805 million. Two-thirds of these receipts were from livestock. That share has grown dramatically over time, led by the growth in the number of dairies and dairy cows in the region surrounding the planning area. The crop share of receipts dropped from 48% in 1970 to 28% in 2003. Government payments have dropped over time both in amount and share of farm receipts (Gardner & Martin, 2006).

The cattle ranching and farming sector in Elko County, Nevada comprised 2.5% of Elko County employment in 2005. Net income was \$8.6 million on average and average annual cash receipts and other income for this sector was \$58.5 million between 1994 and 2004 (Vusovic & Harris, 2006).

Livestock grazing has been an important social and economic activity in the Jarbidge FO since the 1870s (see Livestock Grazing). Some families have been raising cattle in the Jarbidge FO for six generations. Scoping comments expressed the opinion that the practice of ranching in the FO will preserve open space from development, an important social value in the area.

Participants at the Jarbidge Community Economic Workshop, held in September 2006, described differences in agricultural practices within the Jarbidge FO. Farms with cropland surround the Jarbidge FO. Workers commute to and from the Jarbidge FO to work in neighboring dairies, farms, and communities. In the north, hay, potatoes, mint, and wheat are grown in rotation in the Grindstone Butte area. The hay is often sold to dairies outside the Jarbidge FO. Barley, sugar beets, dry beans, oats, and corn for silage and feed are grown in the Indian Cove area. There is one dairy in the Blue Gulch area (Gardner, 2006).

Inequality

For every household in the county aggregation that made over \$100,000 in 1999, there were 6.2 households that made under \$30,000. Ten years earlier, for every household that made over \$100,000, there were 27.3 households that made under \$30,000²² ("Economic Profile System," 2006). This is an indication of a decline in inequality.

The housing affordability index measures the affordability of a home. An index of 100 or above means the median family can afford the median house. The affordability index for the county aggregation is 150, suggesting the median family can afford the median house. The housing affordability index score dropped from 154 in 1990, indicating housing became less affordable in the last decade ("Economic Profile System," 2006).

Access to Services

Mid-level practitioners in community health clinics are available in cities such as Glens Ferry or Hammett. More serious health care needs can be addressed at hospitals in Boise, Mountain Home, Gooding, or Twin Falls (Gardner, 2006).

Dependence on the Federal Government

ICBEMP identified communities within the Interior Columbia Basin that may be economically and socially vulnerable to shifts in the management of USFS- and BLM-administered lands. Glens Ferry, Mountain Home, Bliss, Gooding, Hagerman, and Wendell, Idaho were chosen as communities of interest based on their geographical isolation, industries in which the community specialized, and the relationship of the community to USFS- and BLM-administered lands (ICBEMP, 1998). These communities lie to the north and east of the Jarbidge FO.

BLM disbursements coming out of the Jarbidge FO in Fiscal Year 2006 include approximately \$500 in recreation permits, \$223,500 in grazing receipts, \$3,500 in mineral material sales, and \$46,500 in land use authorizations and ROW collections. Total collections from grazing on BLM-managed land in Idaho was approximately \$1.6 million in fiscal year 2006. The Jarbidge FO represented nearly 15% of that total. Revenues from livestock grazing fees collected within the Jarbidge FO are significant in relation to other areas of the State.

BLM disburses Payments-In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties for all Federal lands. Congress appropriates PILT payments each year for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by the BLM, NPS, FWS, USFS, Federal water projects, and some military installations. PILT payments are in addition to other Federal revenues transferred to the states such as oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing, and timber harvesting. These payments help local governments carry out vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The formula used to compute the payments is contained in the PILT Act and is based on population, receipts-sharing payments, and the amount of Federal land within an affected county. BLM PILT payments amounted to \$1,373,305 for Elmore County, \$729,305 for Owyhee County and \$928,459 for Twin Falls County from all BLM FOs in those

²² Numbers not adjusted for inflation.

counties for 2006 (Gardner & Martin, 2006). Elko County received \$1,817,553 in PILT payments from all BLM FO in that county for 2006 ("PILT Payments (in Dollars) for Counties in Nevada," 2007).

Social Values

Participants in the Jarbidge Community Economic Workshop identified the Malad Gorge, Billingsley Creek State Park, Miracle and Sligar's Hot Springs, and the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway as culturally and socially significant places and areas. Participants also identified what they appreciated about the Jarbidge FO. Responses included solitude, livestock, wildlife, scenery, recreation opportunities, hunting, and cultural aspects (Gardner, 2006). Areas important to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes exist within the Jarbidge FO boundaries (see Tribal Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities). Families with grazing permits in the planning area use the public land for purposes other than grazing, including scientific, educational, spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational purposes (Black & Black, 2006; Brackett et al., 2006; Lehmann et al., 2006).

Current Management

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not address any goals, objectives, or management actions for social and economic conditions in the planning area. These activities are managed according to BLM policy.

Management Opportunities

The revised Jarbidge RMP will evaluate the effects of each alternative on the social and economic systems surrounding the Jarbidge FO. Actions and guidelines related to the social and economic sustainability of communities could be considered as well.

2.E.3. Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education Profile

Interpretation

Interpretation is a voice for all resource management programs within BLM. Although BLM has had some interpretive facilities, programs, and products in place since the early 1970s, the interpretive program is relatively young. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Visitor Center in Nevada was one of the first BLM visitor centers when it was completed in 1982. That same year, BLM established a partnership with its first interpretive cooperating association. As of 2006, BLM is an active partner in 46 visitor centers, 18 of which BLM owns and manages.

Figure 41. Informational Kiosk for the Owyhee Canyon Lands



BLM's interpretive program focuses on the Nation's public lands and the interrelationship between the physical elements, biological systems, and cultural and historical events. Management issues are addressed within the interpretive story in a way that relates those issues to visitor experiences. Interpretive planning is done collaboratively with internal and external groups, and clear objectives are established to measure the program's costs, benefits, and effectiveness. BLM's interpretive program aims to respect and serve people with diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Five interpretive kiosks are located throughout the Jarbidge FO (Figure 41). Three kiosks display geologic information, safety tips, and maps for kayakers and rafters in the Jarbidge and Bruneau River canyons. The other kiosks feature information about the Oregon NHT at Pilgrim Station and geologic features at the Bruneau Overlook.

Outreach

Public land resources play an integral part in people's lives, and Jarbidge FO staff work to protect the value of these resources for all generations. Outreach efforts within the Jarbidge FO are varied and have reached a significant number of people over the years. The following activities are examples of ongoing outreach projects:

- Jarbidge FO staff hand out fire, cultural resource, rangeland management, planning, recreation, and Wild Horse and Burro program information at the Twin Falls County Fair. In 2006, over 3,079 people visited the booth, operated in cooperation with the USFS, IDFG, NPS, and FWS.
- Outreach to area OHV groups occurs through Jarbidge FO staff attendance at

meetings and trail rides and through organizing clean-up efforts. These efforts occur in areas that experience a high degree of use.

- Fire staff members educate homeowners in the Jarbidge FO WUI about the dangers of wildfire. Fire education presentations have been held at the Three Creek, Buhl, and Castleford schools, and recruitment programs have taken place in Buhl and Castleford. KMVT, the local CBS affiliate, recently recorded a segment featuring the life of a firefighter stationed at the Juniper Butte Guard Station.
- Idaho Public Television filmed a segment on the Salmon Falls Recreation Area, including highlights from the Jarbidge FO. They recently traveled to the Arch to film footage for a “Desert Hideaways” special program to air on *Outdoor Idaho* in 2007.

Environmental Education

Outdoor classrooms are effective tools to awaken curiosity. Environmental education efforts within the Jarbidge FO enhance understanding, increase skills, and develop an appreciation for effective land management techniques. The following activities illustrate effective partnerships that occur within the environmental education arena:

- Jarbidge FO staff partnered with local ranchers in 2006 to host outdoor educational opportunities for area elementary students in celebration of Earth Day. Students and staff planted willow cuttings in the southern portion of the Jarbidge FO, and were treated to informative natural resource preservation presentations.
- Jarbidge FO staff partner with members of the Oregon-California Trail Association to equip volunteers with resources to place trail markers along sections of the Oregon NHT. Maintenance of trail markers is critical to BLM’s management of this component of the National Scenic and Historic Trails System. Over 40 miles of trail have been marked since the partnership began in 2003.
- The BLM Adventures in the Past outreach program features different educational programs during Idaho Archaeology and Preservation Month. The Jarbidge FO staff is actively involved in this program by offering presentations to area elementary schools, civic organizations, and various interested groups.

Current Management

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not address any goals, objectives, or management actions for interpretation, outreach, or environmental education in the planning area. These activities are managed according to BLM policy.

Management Opportunities

Interpretation, outreach, and environmental education efforts should foster an appreciation for resources and an understanding about the relationships between people and the public lands. Outreach activities for the Jarbidge FO could include information about use authorizations, safety, orientation, recreation, fire rehabilitation and potential closures, noxious weed and invasive plant identification and control, and opportunities for volunteerism. Outreach efforts could focus on area residents and users residing outside the TFD. Future interpretation, outreach,

and environmental education should focus on protecting the segments of the Oregon NHT and historic and archaeological resources, as well as educating the public about fire prevention, special status species, complex ecosystems, and resource protection.

Partnering with the different user groups to form educational and outreach programs could allow BLM to reach interested target audiences. Examples include “Appreciation Day,” where area 4th or 5th graders are invited to experience natural resource management through hands-on activities and events coinciding with National Public Lands Day or The Great American Clean-Up. Efforts could also be tied to national-level initiatives, priorities, and programs such as the national weeds initiative, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly!.

Profile

Saylor Creek Air Force Range

Location

Saylor Creek Air Force Range (SCAFR) consists of approximately 110,000 acres located in Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho, approximately 20 miles southeast of Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB). SCAFR is located in the relatively flat upland of the Bruneau Desert at an average elevation of 3,700 feet. This area is bordered on the north by the Snake River Canyon and on the west by the Bruneau Canyon.

History

MHAFB was established in 1943 to provide US Army Air Corps bombardment training during World War II. In 1953, the Army established Saylor Creek Bombing Range (now SCAFR). In 1954, principal training was conducted at the Saylor Creek Bombing Range and four Precision Bombing Ranges in southwestern Idaho. Between 1943 and 1992, MHAFB changed missions and commands several times. The Precision Bombing Ranges were returned to the public domain in 1959 and the 400,000-acre gunnery range was reduced to its present size of approximately 110,000 acres in the early 1960s due to changes in tactics and technology. After World War II, SCAFR continued to be used to train reconnaissance aircraft, transport wing, and bombers.

Purpose

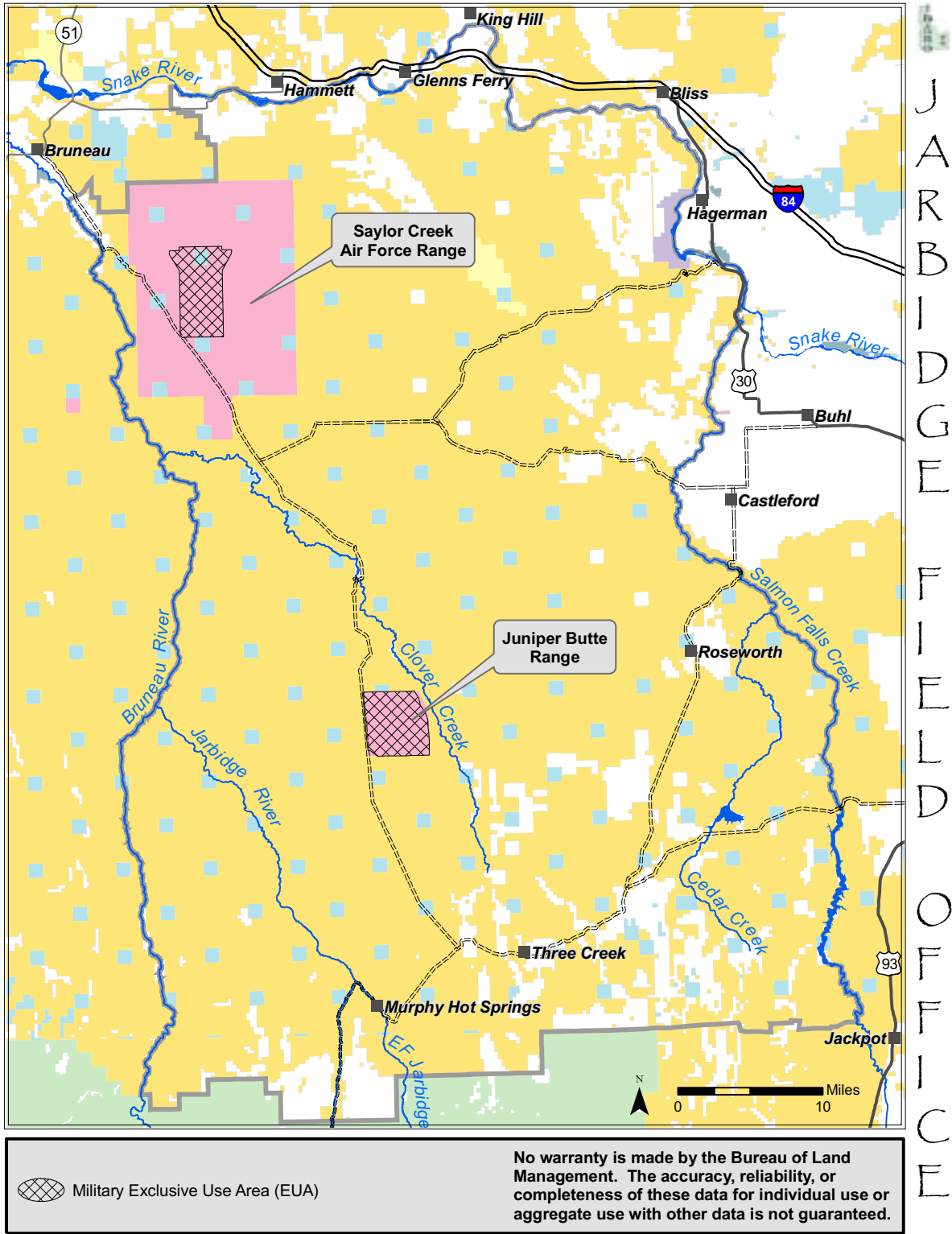
SCAFR has been used since 1944 for training activities including artillery, air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery, precision bombing, and tactical air-to-ground reconnaissance. A 12,200-acre EUA is located within the center of SCAFR and contains multiple targets of various types, including a mock airfield, military convoys, and building targets and two strafe pits used for conventional air-to-ground training.

Management Responsibilities

SCAFR is reserved for the use of USAF. Overall management and use of the withdrawn lands are the responsibility of USAF, including prevention and suppression of range fires, clean-up of ordnance, and rehabilitation.

USAF is required to take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress brush and range fires occurring within the withdrawn lands during military use or outside the withdrawn lands resulting from military use. The EUA is fenced and has a 100-foot-wide, bare-ground firebreak that is maintained around its perimeter. The public land orders that created SCAFR permit USAF to enter into agreements with the BLM for fire suppression and reseeding. Under the Support Agreement Between the United States Air Force 366th Wing Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho and the United States Department of Interior BLM Twin Falls District Office, dated December 2006, BLM is responsible for fire protection outside the EUA (approximately 97,000 acres). Fire protection responsibilities involve preparedness, suppression, and post-suppression actions including, but not limited to, detection and patrol, construction of fuel breaks, fire rehabilitation, and reseeding.

Figure 42. Saylor Creek Air Force Range and Juniper Butte Range.



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USAF is required to prevent the destruction of range resources and range infrastructure and provide for reseeding or other restoration work if the lands or improvements are damaged by military use. Necessary restoration will be accomplished under a cooperative agreement between USAF and the BLM. USAF is also required to prevent the pollution of waters on or in the vicinity of the withdrawn lands.

With the exception of the EUA which is used for gunnery, livestock grazing is permitted on SCAFR and managed by BLM. The USAF and BLM have worked cooperatively to allow grazing year round provided it does not interfere with the military use of the lands.

Juniper Butte Range

Location

Juniper Butte Range (JBR) is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Saylor Creek Range in Owyhee County, Idaho. The approximately 13,000-acre range, including an 11,000-acre EUA, is located in gently rolling uplands of the Inside Desert. The area is bordered to the east by Clover Creek and to the south by Juniper Butte.

History

Congress established JBR with the Juniper Butte Range Withdrawal Act (JBRWA) in 1998 as an addition to Saylor Creek Range and to enhance the 366th Fighter Wing's ability to conduct realistic training close to MHAFB. The area was traditionally used by ranchers, hunters, and Native Americans from the Duck Valley Reservation.

Purpose

JBR is used by the USAF for ordnance delivery and electronic combat. Activities within this area include dropping non-explosive training ordnance with cold spot or no-spot charges; electronic warfare, tactical maneuvering, and air support; and other defense-related purposes.

Management Responsibilities

The JBRWA withdrew JBR from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the General Mining Law of 1872 and the mineral and geothermal leasing laws. BLM provides fire suppression assistance for all withdrawn and leased acreage at the request of MHAFB, including the EUA and 960 acres of State-leased land.

Emitter Sites

Location

There are 30 emitter sites established in Owyhee and Twin Falls Counties. Fourteen emitter sites are located in the Jarbidge FO: nine quarter-acre sites, and five one-acre sites. One five-acre No-Drop target is also within the Jarbidge FO. Seven quarter-acre sites are on State land within the Jarbidge FO. The quarter-acre sites consist of an unfenced, gravel parking area designed to support temporary use. The one-acre emitter sites are fenced and graveled and contain one 400-square-foot building approximately 15 feet in height. Emitter sites are not continually manned or occupied, but are temporarily manned on a rotational or intermittent basis to support training missions. On average, five to eight emitter sites are used each weekday.

History

Withdrawals for the one-acre and five-acre sites were issued in October 1998. ROWs for the quarter-acre emitter sites were issued in January 1999.

Purpose

Electronic emitter sites simulate enemy threats. During training, aircrews detect and respond to simulated threats created by emitters. In combination with No-Drop targets and ranges, emitter sites help to provide a variety of realistic training scenarios.

Management Responsibilities

The quarter-acre emitter sites are used by the USAF through a BLM ROW authorization. As part of the ROW authorization for the quarter-acre sites, BLM has made the Air Force responsible for reseeding disturbed areas and identifying and controlling noxious weeds within the issued ROWs. The larger emitter sites are withdrawn from public use and are under the management of the USAF.

Airspace

MHAFB controls and operates the Mountain Home Range Complex airspace comprised of four Military Operating Areas (MOAs). MOAs are special-use airspace designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to identify areas where non-hazardous military operations are conducted and to separate these activities from nonparticipating civil and military air traffic. MOAs provide the horizontal and vertical space to permit military aircraft to maneuver and train. The Jarbidge MOA covers the majority of the portions of the Jarbidge FO within Owyhee County, including airspace between 100 feet above ground level and 17,999 feet above mean sea level. SCAFR and JBR are restricted airspaces within the Jarbidge MOA. Restricted areas separate potentially hazardous military activities, such as air-to-ground training, from other aviation activities. Aircraft must have permission from air traffic control to enter a restricted area when active.

Current Management

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not contain goals, objectives, or management actions related to the military. The relationship with the military is managed according to BLM policy and agreements with MHAFB.

Management Opportunities

The Jarbidge FO could seek to improve communication and cooperation with USAF regarding management of SCAFR and BLM lands adjacent to JBR and the associated facilities.