Since the proposed stocking levels in this document are based primarily on a one-point-in-time inventory, the current allotment grazing preference or the past five year average active use, whichever is greater, will be used as the starting point from which adjustments will be made. The current grazing preference, 5 year average use and proposed use levels are identified by allotment on Appendix Table D-1. Proposed use levels are also identified by multiple use area in the Management Prescription Section.

Adjustments will be implemented through consultation and coordination with the permittees involved. Data from the range inventory, actual grazing use studies, forage utilization studies, long-term trend studies (when available) and the evaluation of wildlife needs will be used to arrive at the adjusted stocking levels. If agreement cannot be reached with individual permittees on the amount of grazing adjustment needed to balance active preference with forage productivity, needed adjustments will be implemented by formal decision under Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based upon operator consultation and monitoring of resource conditions. All adjustments will be made in the manner specified in current regulations. Most adjustments by decision, either upward or downward, will be scheduled in stages, unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise. This will allow monitoring of allotment conditions after initial or subsequent adjustments.

Range Improvements and Treatments

A variety of range improvements, grazing systems, and other range management practices may be considered in conjunction with livestock management on individual allotments. Such practices will be based on the range management category (maintain, improve, custodial) in which the allotment has been placed and will be formulated in consultation, coordination, and cooperation with livestock operators, and other interested parties. The typical design features and construction practices for range improvements and land treatments that were identified in Appendix F of the proposed RMP/final EIS will be followed except for those relating to chemical control of sagebrush. No chemical control of sagebrush will be allowed.

The extent, location, and timing of improvements will be based on the allotment specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process; interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions; operator contributions; and BLM funding capability.

Range improvement proposals are shown by MUA or allotment group rather than specific location. Further site specific impact assessment will be necessary in many of the range developments when actual project layout and design has occurred. Cattleguards will be considered a part of the fence and will be installed as deemed necessary. Existing range improvements will be maintained in a current working condition as long as they are deemed necessary to management in all allotments. Existing fences will be modified where specific wildlife needs are not being met. All new fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage.

Interseeding and reseeding projects in MUAs with objectives to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use shrub, forb

and grass seed mixture that are normally found in that type of ecological zone/type.

The order of priority for vegetative treatment will be:

1) Areas where unacceptable soil loss is occurring.

2) Areas where the livestock operator is grazing at levels below preference.

3) Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens, i.e., season of use restriction or high fire management costs.

4) Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists (appropriate seed mixtures for wildlife will be used).

5) Areas for overall multiple use improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock.

All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs.

Grazing Systems

There are existing grazing systems on eight AMPs. Additional grazing systems will be implemented. The type of system to be implemented will be based on consideration of the following factors:

- multiple use area and allotment specific management objectives;
- resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability;
- operator needs; and
- implementation costs.

Grazing systems that will be considered include rest-rotation grazing, deferred rotation grazing, deferred grazing, alternate grazing, short-duration high intensity grazing or seasonal grazing.

Wild Horses and Burros

A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with federal law. Where levels are to be adjusted, sufficient forage will be provided. Animals being collected for adoption or removed by other appropriate means will receive care and attention. Adopted animals will be monitored in accordance with BLM policy until title for the animal(s) is/are issued.

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants

There are seven plants in the JRA which are currently identified as "Federal Category 2" or Sensitive. Projects proposed in areas with known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants will give full consideration to protecting these species, including fencing, if necessary. Adjustments to livestock use levels, grazing seasons, season-of-use or other management techniques will be used to protect plants. If a proposed action is predicted, through the environmental assessment, to have an adverse effect on threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants, the action will be foregone or redesigned to eliminate such adverse effects.

Terrestrial Wildlife

The guidance for wildlife cover (general and species specific), practices and procedures and are as follows:

General

Project clearances for threatened and endangered species would be conducted on all project proposals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted regarding actions that affect habitat of these species. All BLM management actions will comply with Federal and State laws concerning fish and wildlife.

In crucial wildlife habitats (winter ranges, raptor nest sites, strutting grounds, fawning habitat, etc.), major construction and maintenance work will be scheduled to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife. Areas disturbed during project construction will be reseeded with a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs to meet site specific needs or habitat requirements. Wildlife escape devices will be installed on all troughs and tanks. Range improvements will be designed to achieve watershed, wildlife and range objectives. Wildlife provisions will be incorporated into all future fence proposals.

Forage/cover requirements will be incorporated into allotment management plans and will be specific to areas of primary wildlife use. Water will be provided in allotments (including rested pastures) during seasonal periods of need for wildlife. Vegetative manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impacts and improve wildlife habitat by including a variety of palatable shrubs, forbs and grass. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be consulted one year in advance on all vegetative manipulation projects and proposed land transfers. Wildlife projects will be planned and implemented with input from the private landowners and/or permittees.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions.

Occupancy for oil and gas activities will be restricted in crucial wildlife habitats as shown in Table 1. Additional activities will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine the need for compliance with the recommendations shown in Table 1.

Design all new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas. Where possible, and if the need exists for wildlife, fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock away from the reservoirs. Wildlife habitat needs will be considered when reservoir size determinations are made. Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.

Exchanges would be allowed within crucial wildlife habitat only if the wildlife value of the offered lands meets or exceeds the wildlife value of the selected lands. Crucial wildlife habitat will not be sold. Avoid constructing any roads within or closely adjacent to crucial wildlife habitat.

Manage all ecological sites on mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep and sage grouse habitat currently in fair or poor ecological condition, for good ecological condition. Monitor utilization of shrubs and forbs on crucial big game winter ranges.

Existing fences will be modified where specific wildlife needs are not being met. All new fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage.

Protect and enhance endangered, threatened and sensitive species habitats in order to maintain or enhance existing and potential populations within the planning area. Allow no adverse habitat alteration within 1/4 mile of any burrowing owl nest, 3/4 mile of any ferruginous hawk, golden eagle or prairie falcon nest, or within one mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

Improve raptor habitat by requiring all new power lines in raptor areas to be constructed to "electrocution proof" specification and that any problem lines now existing be modified to be "electrocution proof."

Maintain the short-grass habitats occupied by long-billed curlew.

Manage all wildlife habitat within the resource area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.

Occupancy restrictions shown on Table 1 will be followed.

Sage Grouse

Where applicable, "Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range" and "Sage Grouse Management Practices" (Technical Bulletin No. 1) - Western States Sage Grouse Committee, June 1974, and 1982 respectively, will be followed. Also, "Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse" Technical Note (USDI, BLM 1974) will be followed where applicable. These include:

- No control work would be allowed where live sagebrush cover is less than 20%.

- Treatment measures should be applied in irregular patterns using topography and other ecological considerations to minimize adverse effects to the sage grouse resource.

- Where fire is used as a habitat management tool, it should be used in such manner as to result in a mosaic pattern of shrubs and open areas, with openings, optimally from 1 to 10 acres in size.

- Maintain the density of sagebrush canopy coverage at 20-30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in wintering habitats.

- No control of sagebrush would be considered in any area known to have supported important wintering populations of sage grouse in the past 10 years.

- Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects will include a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs that benefit sage grouse.

Improve sage grouse brood rearing habitat where sagebrush canopy cover is greater than 20% by removing sagebrush in small irregular areas and then reseeding.

Mule Deer

Where applicable, "Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines" contained in Technical Note T/N 336 (USDI, BLM 1979) will be followed. These include:

- In range rehabilitation or manipulation projects, maintain a 60/40 ratio of forage area to cover area.

- Try to achieve a mosaic or mottled pattern of cover in prescribed burning and manipulation projects.

- Improve forage condition by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbrush or other palatable shrub species on crucial mule deer winter range that presently has less than 30% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component.

On crucial mule deer and elk winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

Table 1
Wildlife Habitat Occupancy Restrictions

Species	No Occupancy Time Periods	Area
Game Species		
California Bighorn Sheep Yearlong Habitat	Year Long	Entire Habitat Area
Mule Deer		
Crucial 1/ Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Antelope		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Crucial Fawning Range	5/1 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
Elk		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse		
Winter Range	12/1 - 2/15	Entire Habitat Area
Breeding Grounds	2/15 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
Nesting/Brood Rearing	4/15 - 6/30	2 miles radius from lek
Sensitive Species		
Riparian Associated (River Otter, Mountain Quail)	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of riparian
Red-Band Trout/White Sturgeon/ Shoshone Sculpin	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of stream
Long-billed Curlew Nesting Areas	3/15 - 6/30	
Ferruginous Hawk Nests	3/15 - 6/30	3/4 mile radius from nest
Osprey Nesting	4/15 - 8/31	3/4 mile radius from nest
Western Burrowing Owl Nests	3/15 - 6/30	1/4 mile radius from nest
White-faced Ibis Nesting Areas	3/15 - 6/30	
Endangered Species		
Bald Eagle/Peregrine		
Winter	12/1 - 3/31	
Nesting	Year Long	Within 1 mile of of nest
Species of Concern		
Golden Eagle Nest	2/1 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Prairie Falcon Nest	3/15 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Heron Rookeries	Year Long	Within 1/2 mile of rookery

Table 1 (continued)

Species	No Occupancy Time Periods	Area
Special Habitats		
Reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, marshes, riparian	Year Long	Within 500 ft.
BOP - Essential Nesting Habitat	Year Long	Entire Habitat Area

1/ Those areas where big game animals have demonstrated a definite pattern of use each year or an area where animals tend to concentrate in significant numbers (from Interagency Guidelines for Big Game Range Investigation - Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service).

Pronghorn

Where applicable, "Habitat Management Guides for the American Pronghorn Antelope" contained in Technical Note 347 (USDI, BLM 1980) will be followed. These include:

- Grazing systems designed with the concept of key plant species, preferred pronghorn forage species for forbs and shrubs will be included as key species.

- Vegetative manipulation projects will include mixtures of grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Bighorn Sheep

Roads will not be built within one (1) mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

No conversion from cattle to sheep will be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat, unless a satisfactory separation can be maintained by fences or topographic features. This separation will be agreed upon through consultation and coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Maintain a separation of use between cattle and bighorns by not developing livestock water sources within 1 mile of bighorn habitat unless adverse impacts can be mitigated.

Permit no adverse habitat alteration of potential bighorn sheep habitats.

Manage human use within bighorn habitat at levels which are not detrimental to the bighorn population.

Any forest treatment which changes an area from cover to forage should be no more than 800 to 1,000 feet wide and be immediately adjacent to hiding cover. Design all logging sales to run the shortest period of time possible. Individual clearcuts should not exceed 40 acres in size. The last paragraph of mule deer guidance also applies.

Monitoring and coordination needs for elk are as follows:

- Identify elk use patterns as they occur on BLM lands.

- Identify areas of cumulative use due to elk and livestock.

- Monitor forage use to determine if overuse of plant communities is occurring.

- Coordinate elk management and the exchange of information with the livestock users in the area and other agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Priority for habitat management will be given to habitat for listed and candidate Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species. If any listed or candidate Threatened or Endangered species may be affected by BLM actions, the Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted as prescribed by the Endangered Species Act.

Riparian and Aquatic Habitat

Riparian and wetland habitat will have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy.

Provide a riparian buffer zone of sufficient width (100 to 300 feet minimum) to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality as determined by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, which includes fisheries and wildlife specialists. Utilize this zone for the general exclusion of the following activities:

- Limit new road construction that parallels streams - use best management practices when construction cannot be avoided,
- Fire (maintain full suppression),
- Timber harvest activities,
- Spraying of herbicides and pesticides, and
- Gravel extraction.

Utilize a 1,000 foot (500 feet each side) buffer zone for the total exclusion of the following activities:

- Oil and gas occupancy and/or surface disturbance (Boise District stipulations for oil and gas leases), and
- Introduction of chemical toxicants as a result of construction, mining, or agriculture.

Give special consideration for the mitigation of mining related activities i.e. tailing deposits, holding ponds, chemical dumps.

Maintain recommended instream flows (recommended by Idaho Department of Water Resources) for the maintenance and preservation of aquatic and

riparian ecosystems. In all cases, allow no proposals that include dewatering of the streambed.

Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs. In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion will be utilized. Allow no livestock related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways to occur within the riparian zone of a stream drainage system.

Avoid construction activities which remove or destroy riparian vegetation and instream fish cover. Monitor and implement periodic rest or nonuse when these stream systems do not show signs of adequate recovery.

In all activities including maintenance of roads, and other facilities follow the guidelines outlined in the best management practices manual for management and protection of western stream ecosystems (American Fisheries Society 1982).

In those areas where fish/riparian values are identified as high priority, all other management practices will be designed to accommodate those priority needs.

All habitat improvement projects in riparian-stream systems will be coordinated and/or reviewed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Snake River System (MUA-4) is a unique system. In all activities and proposed projects pertinent to the Snake River coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is recommended to establish joint objectives for protection of fisheries, riparian, and water quality.

Fire Management

Bureau Policy

The present Bureau policy and the JRMP proposed action is to aggressively suppress all new fires on or threatening public lands.

Less than full suppression may occur whenever multiple fires ignite simultaneously. In these situations, priority is determined by value-at-risk. These values are predetermined by evaluating each resource separately to determine either beneficial or detrimental effects fire has on that resource. A numerical rating is given each resource, plus being detrimental and minus beneficial. After each resource has been evaluated individually, the totals are summarized to establish the values. Crews are dispatched to fires with the highest values until all crews are utilized. Fires with lower values may have delayed suppression times.

The Bureau cooperates with adjacent landowners on a case-by-case basis to reduce fire hazard where efforts are cost effective and the results will benefit BLM's fire management program. Cooperative efforts may range from consulting with private landowners on hazard reduction plans, to development of cooperative agreements and performance of hazard reduction.

Supplemental District Policy

The suppression policy of the Boise District is to extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. Whenever burning conditions and terrain are such that direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from existing natural barriers and established control points, such as roads.

Surface disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers, are utilized only with management approval. First priority is clearing of existing roads and second priority, when all other methods are exhausted, is construction of new control lines. Additional guidance and restrictions for each MUA are identified in Appendix F.

Rehabilitation and Reduction Actions/Procedures

Public lands affected by wildfires will be rehabilitated to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size. The following rehabilitation and reduction actions and procedures will be applied in all multiple use areas and in both full and limited suppression areas.

1. Rehabilitation of areas, particularly large areas, that have a high potential for fires or have a high frequency of fires, will utilize irregular buffer strips with seed mixtures that are fire resistant and/ or meet watershed protection, wildlife and riparian objectives. These buffer strips will receive first priority for seeding prior to reseeding rest of burned area.

2. In areas where the RMP goal/objective is to return the area to an improved ecological condition, 10 to 25% of the wildfire burn area will use seed mixtures to allow this objective to be met.

3. Prescribed burns (proposed) may be reduced, postponed or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions.

4. All grazing licenses issued that include areas recently burned and/or seeded areas will include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burn area. Normally two years of rest will be necessary to protect these areas. This rested area may include remnant stands of desirable species that survived the fire.

5. A Fire Fuels Break Plan will be developed as part of a fire activity plan after approval of the RMP.

6. The 8100 fund may be used to implement the Fire Fuels Break Plan where range, wildlife or watershed objectives are also met.

7. Seedings will include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

Cultural Resources

The Bureau of Land Management is required to identify, evaluate, and protect and manage wisely cultural resources on public lands under its jurisdiction and to ensure that Bureau-initiated or Bureau-authorized actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy nonfederal cultural resources. These requirements are mandated by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments, together with 36 CFR 800.

Prior to commencement of any Bureau-initiated or authorized action, which involves surface disturbing activities, sale or transfer from Federal management, the BLM will conduct or cause to be conducted, a Class III (intensive) inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, the BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area will be protected by adhering to the following methods.

- Redesigning or relocating the project.

- Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement.

- Should the site be determined to be of significant value, and/or the above mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project will be abandoned.

All cultural sites identified as special multiple use areas in the RMP will be closed to ORV use and surface occupancy (applies to all alternatives in the DEIS).

All significant cultural sites (as determined by the SHPO and Advisory Council) will be retained in federal ownership.

All cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination, or listed on the National Register will be protected from deterioration.

The existing ruts of the main route, north and south alternate routes of the Oregon Trail and Kelton Road will be protected by not allowing incompatible uses to occur within 1/2 mile corridor through which these routes pass.

Mineral, Energy, and Geologic Resources

BLM will manage geological, energy, and minerals resources on the public lands. Geological resources will be managed so that significant scientific,

recreational, and educational values will be maintained or enhanced. Generally, the public lands are available for mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws.

Locatable Minerals (Gold, Silver, Lead, etc.)

Areas within the resource area will be available for exploration and development of locatable minerals except where specifically restricted or excluded. Mineral activities will be conducted in accordance with 43 CFR 3802, 3809 or 3814 as appropriate.

Location of mining claims in accordance with the State and Federal mining laws and regulations is nondiscretionary. The public lands are available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

Saleable Minerals (Sand and Gravel)

All mineral disposals will be made in accordance with 43 CFR 3600. The general policy shall be to promote the use of existing sites. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicants needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Exploration for new sites will be the responsibility of the applicant. Exploration will be allowed where appropriate under a letter of authorization from the Area Manager.

Leaseable Minerals (Oil and Gas)

Energy and mineral leasing and mineral material sales are discretionary actions. Approval of an application for lease or sale is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources. Generally, the public lands may be considered for energy and minerals leasing and sale.

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Notice of Staking (NOS) - Follow operating order #1 and 43 CFR 3160.

Geophysical Operations - Notices of Intent to conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations will be processed within 15 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with stipulations on Applications for Permits to Drill, Notices of Staking, and Notices for Geophysical Operations.

Leaseable Mineral (Geothermal)

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations to protect resource values in accordance with 43 CFR 3204 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Exploration Operations - A notice of intent and permit to conduct exploration operations (geothermal resources) will be processed within 30 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3209 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with approved notices.

Geologic

Unique geologic features of the district will be protected and interpreted for the public.

Wilderness

Preliminary Recommendations to Congress

Only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. BLM recommends areas suitable or nonsuitable for preservation as wilderness. Those recommendations are preliminary and are subject to the findings of mineral surveys and final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior and the President before being submitted to Congress. Until Congress acts on the President's suitability recommendations, BLM will manage wilderness study areas in accordance with the Interim Wilderness Management Policy (IMP). After Congress acts, a different policy will apply, depending on whether or not Congress designates an area as wilderness.

Areas Designated Wilderness

Areas designated as wilderness by Congress will be managed in accordance with BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Specific management provisions will be formulated in a wilderness management plan developed for each area following designation.

Areas Not Designated Wilderness

Areas determined by Congress to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation will be managed for other purposes. A tentative management scheme developed during the planning process will be given final consideration following Congressional action on the President's suitability recommendations.

Recreation

Recreation Management

BLM will manage recreation on the public lands. A variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities will be considered. Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

The Boise District will provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands. Recreation facilities are provided to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety and to protect recreation resources.

Oregon National Historic Trail

The Boise District will manage the Oregon Trail in accordance with guidelines established in the National Park Service Plan and in accordance with provisions of PL 90-543 and PL 95-625.

Potential National Rivers

Federal land management agencies are responsible for evaluating certain rivers to determine suitability for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. For those rivers determined to be suitable, the agencies will provide protection by preparing recommendations to have rivers designated and by taking immediate action to protect them. Prior to the time suitability recommendations have been acted upon by Congress, the rivers will be treated as though they were components of the National Wild and Scenic River system. The Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Sheep Creek will be managed accordingly by the District until Congress acts. The South Fork of the Boise River will be recommended to the Secretary of the Interior as a potential study river to determine if the river meets the criteria for suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Motorized Recreation Vehicle Access and Use

Through the planning process, public lands will be placed in one of three categories for purposes of controlling motorized vehicle access: open, limited, and closed. Guidelines for these categories are as follows:

Open - Motorized vehicles may travel anywhere.

Limited - Motorized vehicles are permitted, subject to specified conditions such as seasonal limitations, speed limits, and designated routes of travel as developed during subsequent activity planning.

Closed - Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Paleontologic Resources

Paleontologic resources will be managed to protect and maintain or enhance sites or areas for their scientific and educational values.

Visual Resource Management

The visual or scenic values of the public lands will be considered whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape will be guided by the criteria established for the four Visual Resource Management Classes as outlined in BLM 8400. VRM Classes will be managed as shown on Map 9.

Forest Management

The public lands in the district containing commercial timber or other forest products such as firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees will be considered for harvest except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Some areas may also be subject to special restrictions to protect resources.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will coordinate its review of detailed management plans (activity) and individual projects prepared in conjunctions with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed, as necessary, to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Control of Noxious Weeds

BLM districts will work with their respective County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records. BLM will control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose.

Where weed control is warranted, the Bureau will consider alternatives including herbicide applications, plow and seed, burn and seed, livestock grazing strategy, and biological controls. Coordination with adjoining landowners will be pursued if appropriate. If herbicide application is selected as the preferred method of control through the environmental analysis process, application will be made through the Idaho State Director to the BLM Director in Washington D.C. This application will indicate all pertinent data including chemicals, rate, and method of application and target plant species. Herbicide applications will be applied under the directions of a licensed pesticide applicator and every effort will be taken to assure public safety.

Public Utilities

Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Project approval will be subject to preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. BLM will work closely with the Idaho Public

Utilities Commission, other state and federal agencies, local governments, utility companies, and other interested parties to determine appropriate locations and environmental safeguards for public utilities involving public lands.

Economic and Social Considerations

BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the specific management action involved.

Detailed Management (Activity) Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the resource area. More detailed management plans, called activity plans, will be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate specific management practices, improvements, allocations, and other information for a particular site or area. They will be prepared for most major BLM programs such as range (allotment management plans), recreation (recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), wilderness (wilderness management plans), and cultural resources (cultural resource activity plans). Where two or more activities have activity plan needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation, and public involvement are integral parts in the formulation of activity plans.

Environmental Reviews

The NEPA process will be followed on all projects prior to approval. This site-specific analysis will allow some projects to be considered under provisions of the categorical review process and others to be considered under the environmental assessment process.

Plan Maintenance

This resource management plan will be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. Such maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated into the plan. Maintenance shall not result in expansion in the scope of resource uses or restrictions, or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan. Maintenance is not considered a plan amendment and does not require formal public involvement and interagency coordination or the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Plan Amendments

The resource management plan may be changed through amendment. An amendment is initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved plan. An amendment will include an environmental assessment or EIS if needed, public

involvement, interagency coordination and consistency determination and any other data or analysis that may be appropriate.

Examples of actions which would require an amendment include disposal of land not identified for transfer, change in management objectives for an area or resource, or changes in special designations. Additional range improvement projects (fences, pipelines, reservoirs, spring developments) not originally identified in a plan, may be approved through the NEPA process without a plan amendment if the project is in conformance with the management objectives of the multiple use area and is not in conflict with the management guidelines and objectives of other resource activities.