APPENDIX F

FIRE MANAGEMENT

A. Introduction

The suppression policy of the Boise District is to extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. Suppression actions are to minimize resource losses, suppression and rehabilitation costs and environmental damage. 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.

B. Full Suppression

Full suppression is aggressive action taken on all fires which are on or are threatening public land with sufficient forces to contain the fire during the first burning period. When multiple fires are experienced, suppression priority is given to fires threatening areas of highest value.

C. Required Action

Full Suppression

1. Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce the number of human-caused fires.

2. Maintain the existing fire organization as to personnel, equipment, and locations with the necessary funding.

3. Continue contract protection for Mountain Home Air Force Base.

4. Continue initial attack agreement with Burley District.

5. Continue initial attack agreement with the Pole Creek Ranger District.

6. Evaluate burned area for emergency rehabilitation and implement if feasible.

D. Special Consideration Section

Special considerations have been developed in each MUA to protect special resource values and determine fire management actions.

1. Multiple Use Area 1: Anderson Ranch Reservoir/Boise River

a. Resource Values and Levels of Fire Suppression: The entire 11,086 acres of public land managed by BLM will receive full suppression. This MUA is a popular outdoor recreation area. Public lands are important winter habitat for deer and elk and contain 850 acres of commercial timber. Visual resources are especially important in both the foreground and background of Anderson Ranch Reservoir. Full suppression of wildfire is required to accomplish the management objectives of this unit.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) Anderson Ranch Reservoir area: construct new control lines with bulldozers only as last resort.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations:

(1) Plant trees in high visual areas or when loss of commercial timber has occurred.

(2) In deer and elk winter range, use seed mixtures which benefit wildlife as well as livestock.

e. Suppression Priority

(1) Private land and structures.

(2) Anderson Ranch Reservoir Area.

(3) Deer and elk winter habitat; riparian habitat.

(4) Commercial timber stands.

(5) Recreation facilities.

f. Other Considerations: Continue the present exchange of protection with the Boise National Forest for fire suppression in this area.

g. Fire Activity Plans: None

2. Multiple Use Area 2: Upper Bennett Mountain

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The 62,228 acres of public land in MUA 2 will receive full suppression in all alternatives. The existing fuel types and terrain in the northern portion near Bennett Mountain make fire suppression effort both difficult and expensive. The area is an important elk and deer winter range, has 1,400 acres of commercial timber and contains the King Hill Creek WSA. There are 37,000 acres of

private land, increasing the possibilities of fire destroying isolated ranches, fences, and structures during large or multiple fires. Full suppression is warranted to meet management objectives of the proposed plan.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: 1,280 acres.

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) King Hill Creek WSA - as fires occur, fire management will be cognizant in both consulting with an area representative and developing fire suppression strategies that will not impair the suitability of the area for designation as wilderness.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Same as for MUA 1.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private land and structures.

(2) King Hill Creek WSA.

(3) Deer and elk winter range, riparian habitat.

(4) Commercial timber.

f. Other Considerations: Review need for fire breaks.

g. Fire Activity Plans: None planned.

3. Multiple Use Area 3: Lower Bennett

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The entire 49,791 acres of public land will receive full suppression in all alternatives. Historically, large fires (2,000 acres+) have occurred in this unit where vegetation is primarily big sagebrush-cheatgrass. Portions of the Oregon National Historic Trail cross this MUA. There are 24,000 acres of private land which are at risk.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: There are 400 acres planned in the proposed plan and 640 acres in Alternative B. Wildfires which occur in the prescription area will be manned, but allowed to burn as long as the prescription is met. See Prescribed Burn Table I-1.

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) Fire suppression tactics near the Oregon Trail will not destroy or impair any physical portion of the trail.

(2) Emphasize fire suppression of the "Big Sagebrush" habitat (T.5S., R.9E.) to maintain rodent population for raptors.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Maintain big sagebrush habitat.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private land and structures.

(2) Oregon Trail

(3) Big Sagebrush communities.

f. Other Considerations: Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce number of human-caused fires.

g. Fire Activity Plans: Prescribed Burn Plan.

4. Multiple Use Area 4: Snake River Riparian

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: This 51 mile long corridor along the Snake River contains important wildlife habitat for waterfowl, upland game, and mule deer, and is important habitat for the white sturgeon. This unit, with 9,068 acres of public land, will receive full suppression in all alternatives in order to meet management objectives.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations: Limit surface disturbance in riparian areas and plaeontologic areas.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Rehabilitation should benefit wildlife and protection against soil loss.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private land and structures.

(2) Riparian habitat.

f. Fire Activity Plans: None planned.

5. Multiple Use Area 5: Snake River Birds of Prey

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: This unit contains habitat for numerous raptors and their prey base and is within the boundary of the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Historically, large fires (10,000 acres+) have occurred in the Sand Dunes and Browns Creek area where loss of ground cover is increasing the erosion potential. Crop damage from fires has occurred in the past in the Indian Cove area. The 49,286 acres of public land will receive full suppression.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) No impairment of Oregon Trail and other cultural/historical sites.

(2) Consider need for fire breaks between public land and farming developments and the Bruneau Dunes State Park.

(3) Consider the visual values surrounding Bruneau Dunes State Park when designing or developing fire breaks. Seek input from Park Manager.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations:

(1) Maintain Birds of Prey habitat.

(2) Establish ground cover on highly erodable soils and sandy areas.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Prevent loss to crops and private lands.

(2) Protect big sagebrush stands within three miles of nesting habitat; protect winterfat areas.

(3) Protect Sand Dunes State Park.

f. Other Considerations: Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce the number of human-caused fires.

g. Fire Activity Plans:

(1) Address fire management in Birds of Prey Management Plan.

(2) Consider need for fire breaks in all activity plans.

6. Multiple Use Area 6: Saylor Creek West

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The public land (176,859 acres) in this MUA will receive full suppression. The Saylor Creek Gunnery Range (102,746 acres) is located in the middle of this area. Vegetation is predominantly crested wheatgrass with pockets of big sagebrush. Historically, this area has experienced high fire occurrence and large burns, necessitating extensive rehabilitation. Over 100,000 acres have burned with 75,000 acres reseeded.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) Special suppression restrictions apply to the Saylor Creek Gunnery Range and Sand Point ACEC.

(2) The Bruneau River WSA borders this MUA on the west side and will influence suppression strategies.

(3) Limit surface disturbance in cultural sites in northern part of MUA.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations:

(1) Seed mix should contain shrub component to benefit wildlife and improve vegetative community.

e. Suppression Priority: None

f. Other Considerations:

(1) Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce the number of human-caused fires.

(2) Continue contract protection for Mountain Home Air Force Base.

g. Fire Activity Plans: None

7. Multiple Use Area 7: Saylor Creek East

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The public lands (347,530 acres) in this MUA will receive full suppression. This unit contains a wild horse herd and significant agricultural development. Historically, this area has experienced high fire occurrence with very large fires. Over 200,000 acres have burned with 155,000 acres reseeded. Mule deer, antelope, sage grouse, and upland game are found in the area. Significant paleontologic and cultural resource sites in Pasadena Valley, Dove Springs, and Roosevear Gulch have been recorded and the Oregon National Historic Trail traverses the northern portion of the area.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) Limit surface disturbance on Oregon Trail and cultural and paleontologic sites.

(2) Be cognizant of private land values (farm land and Glenns Ferry area); consider fire barriers.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Same as MUA 6.

e. Suppression Priority: None

f. Other Considerations: None

g. Fire Activity Plans: None

8. Multiple Use Areas 8 and 9: Hagerman Fossil Beds and ORV Area

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The Hagerman Fossil Beds (4,394 acres) is a National Natural Landmark and an internationally recognized paleontologic area. The Hagerman ORV Area (Owsley Bridge) contains 3,530 acres and is used by ORV recreationists (primarily trail bikes) throughout the year. Both areas will receive full fire suppression. Fire occurrence is minimal in these MUAs. There are no prescribed burns planned. Fire suppression techniques would restrict the use of heavy equipment in or near the fossil beds. Activity plans for each area would determine specific fire suppression techniques and rehabilitation considerations.

9. Multiple Use Area 10: Bruneau-Jarbidge-Sheep Creek

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The Bruneau/Sheep Creek WSA and the Jarbidge WSA forms this MUA. The area contains big game, upland game, and sage grouse habitat. The Dry Lake Beds are an important cultural resource while the river canyons are rich in wildlife, cultural and geological hunting, scenery, cold and warm water fisheries, and wild river recreation opportunities. The 95,639 acres will receive full suppression.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: None

c. Constraints/Special Considerations: Suppression tactics will not impair the suitability of the identified areas for designation as wilderness or Wild and Scenic Rivers. Suppression action will be in accordance with the Bureau's wilderness IMP policy. If designated wilderness, suppression activities will be conducted in accordance with the wilderness management plan.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Burned areas should be allowed to revegetate to native grasses. If seeding is necessary, the mix should be native species if possible, and should improve wildlife habitat. Burned areas are not rehabilitated in limited suppression areas.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) River canyons.

(2) Plateaus.

f. Other Considerations: If any of the MUA is designated wilderness, a limited fire suppression effort may be implemented.

g. Fire Activity Plans: Fire management (including suppression tactics) would be addressed in a wilderness management plan, if so designated, or any other subsequent activity plan prepared for the area, such as an ACEC.

10. Multiple Use Areas 11 and 12: Inside Desert and West Devil

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: Vegetation is desert grass-big sagebrush with several large crested wheatgrass seedings, the result of past fire rehabilitation efforts. The area also contains important yearlong antelope range and sage grouse nesting areas. Several significant cultural resource sites are also present. The entire 211,571 acres in MUA 11 and 255,919 acres in MUA 12 will receive full suppression.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: 10,348 acres identified. Wildfires which occur in the prescription area will be manned, but allowed to burn as long as the prescription is met.

c. Constraints/Special Considerations: 130,122 acres of MUA 11 and 146,011 acres of MUA 12 is considered crucial wildlife habitat.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Rehabilitation efforts will meet wildlife management objectives, in addition to providing forage for livestock and providing ground cover.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private lands and structures.

(2) Post Office Historical and Cultural site.

(3) Wildlife habitat.

(4) WSA boundary.

f. Other Considerations: In MUA 11, fire spread will not be allowed into the canyon of the East Fork of the Bruneau River on the east and the Jarbidge WSA on the west.

g. Fire Activity Plans: Fire management plans will include actions to meet wildlife management objectives.

11. Multiple Use Areas 13 and 14: East Devil and Salmon Falls Creek

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The public land (108,036 acres - MUA 13; 2,947 acres - MUA 14) in these two MUAs will receive full suppression management. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush and desert grasses in the flats and riparian habitat in the canyon bottoms, with numerous crested wheatgrass

seedings in burned areas. Several large private blocks in the northern and southwestern parts of the area are in agricultural use. Antelope, mule deer, and sage grouse are found throughout the area and numerous significant cultural resource complexes are present, with major concentrations along Devil Creek. Salmon Falls Creek canyon offers a unique natural ecosystem and has been identified as an Outstanding Natural Area in all alternatives and an ACEC in Alternative D. Mule deer and upland game birds are found in this canyon area throughout the year.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: 4848 acres of prescribed burning will occur in MUA 13. Wildfires which might occur first in the prescription area will be manned, but allowed to burn as long as the prescription is met.

c. Constraints/Special Considerations: All effort will be made to restrict wildfire from entering the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon. Suppression procedures in the canyon are to be limited to helicopter water drops and shovel crews. Surface disturbance by heavy equipment should also be restricted in the Devils Creek Cultural Resource Complexes and other riparian areas.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: Rehabilitation of burned areas will meet wildlife, as well as other resource management objectives in MUA 13. In Salmon Falls Creek most burned areas will not be reseeded. If rehabilitation is necessary, only seed mixes of native species will be applied.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private property.

(2) Salmon Falls Creek Canyon.

(3) Crucial wildlife habitat and riparian areas.

(4) Recreational facilities.

f. Other Considerations: Maintain initial attack agreement with Burley District.

g. Fire Activity Plans: Include fire management in activity plans prepared for Salmon Falls Creek.

12. Multiple Use Areas 15 and 16: Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A

a. Resource Values and Level of Fire Suppression: The Jarbidge Foothills and the Diamond A MUAs provide winter habitat for mule deer and antelope, and includes yearlong habitat for bighorn sheep. MUA 15 contains a total of 205,238 acres of public land, amd MUA 16 contains a total of 97,980 acres of public land. Full suppression will be applied to the entire area.

b. Prescribed Burning Planned: 8,640 acres have been identified. Wildfires which occur in the prescription area will be manned, but allowed to burn as long as the prescription is met.

c. Constraints/Special Considerations:

(1) Keep wildlife away from the Bruneau River Canyon, and private property at risk.

(2) Use of heavy equipment would be restricted in the Bruneau and Jarbidge River Canyons.

d. Rehabilitation Considerations: In the crucial wildlife winter ranges, use seed mixtures which benefit wildlife as well as livestock.

e. Suppression Priority:

(1) Private land and structures.

(2) Crucial wildlife habitat and riparian areas.

(3) Bruneau and Jarbidge River Canyons.

(4) Recreational sites (Cedar Creek Reservoir, Murphy Hot Springs, etc.)

f. Other Considerations: Continue initial attack agreement with Pole Creek Ranger District.

g. Fire Activity Plans: Fire management plans will include actions to help meet wildlife management objectives.

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