PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Cultural Resources Management

Since the Jarbidge RMP took effect in 1987, cultural resource inventory surveys have been conducted for approximately 230 proposed projects on lands administered by the Jarbidge Resource Area. When necessary, projects have been redesigned or rerouted to avoid damaging significant historic or prehistoric sites. To date, over 1,400 cultural resources have been recorded on Resource Area lands. Approximately 80 of these are located in the Bennett Hills Planning Unit which is now managed by the Bruneau Resource Area.

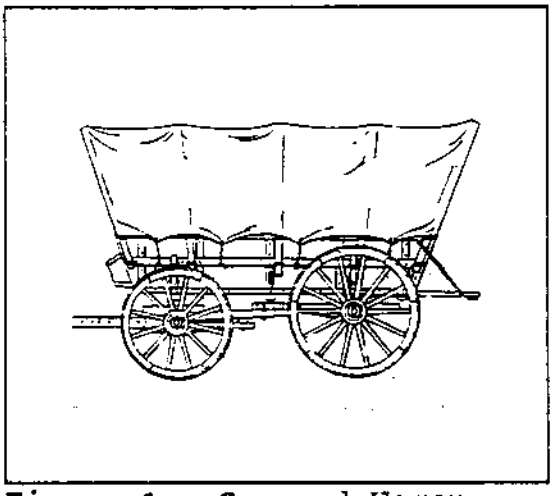

Figure 1. Covered Wagon

In 1984, the Boise District completed its Oregon Trail Management Plan. In compliance with this plan and cultural resource objectives outlined in the Jarbidge RMP for MUAs 3, 4, 5, and 7, all known remnants of the Oregon Trail and other emigrant, stage, and freight routes have been marked at regular intervals with fiberglass posts. Approximately 22.5 miles of Oregon Trail and North Alternate ruts located north of the Snake River are now managed by the Bruneau Resource Area. The Jarbidge Resource Area retained 28.7 miles, including segments of the main Oregon Trail from Salmon Falls Creek to Three Island Crossing, and the South Alternate from Three Island to the Bruneau River. The condition of the trail remnants and markers are monitored annually.

The Sand Point Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plan and the cultural resource management plan (CRMP) for site 10-OE-2296, have been completed for an 815 acre parcel of public land along the Snake River. The Sand Point ACEC contains significant paleontological, archaeological, and historical resources. The protection of these resources is in line with RMP objectives for MUAs 4 and 6.

Implementation of existing plans for Sand Point and the Oregon Trail will continue, with increased emphasis on providing public information and access to the Oregon Trail. In 1992, Jarbidge Resource Area staff helped with the revision and reprinting of the popular Boise District brochure Guide to the Oregon Trail in Southwestern Idaho. In 1993, the Oregon Trail sesquicentennial (150 year) celebration will occur. This event is expected to greatly increase public awareness and use of the historic emigrant trail system nationwide. The Resource Area will be heavily involved in updating the Boise District's Oregon Trail Management Plan and in hosting the Official Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train at Pilgrim Springs. Also in 1993, planning will begin for the proposed Three Island Crossing National Back Country Byway which will parallel the main Oregon Trail from Salmon Falls Creek to Bonneville Point, near Boise. Interpretive signs and kiosks will eventually be installed along the route. This project was identified in A Study and Action Plan for Idaho's Commemoration of the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial: 1993 and Beyond, a report prepared for the Governor's Oregon Trail Executive

Committee and the Idaho/Oregon Trail Working Committee.

Other efforts include the completion of the Dry Lakes/Bruneau River CRMP, and the continuation of a cooperative agreement with the College of Southern Idaho to facilitate archaeological research in the Jarbidge River drainage. The Jarbidge Resource Area actively participates in Idaho Archaeology Week, school presentations, and other public awareness activities as part of the BLM's Adventures in the Past program.

Fire & Green Stripping

Since 1987, a total of 103 wild fires burned 92,957 acres of land. Fire suppression costs for wild fires totaled $644,490. Approximately 73 percent of the acreage were reburns of previous fires. From 1980 to 1986, 123 fires were man caused, whereas 82 fires were caused by lightning. From 1987 to 1991, only 40 fires were man caused and 63 were started by lightning.

Fire rehabilitation plans were prepared for 16 wildfires. Of the approximately 72,000 acres burned, 16,770 acres were rehabilitated. The 55,230 acres not treated were either not in Federal ownership, or the areas were too steep or rocky to make rehabilitation practical. Rehabilitation costs for these fires totaled about $471,000. Shrubs, sagebrush, four-wing saltbush, and antelope bitterbrush, were seeded in areas when critical wildlife habitat was burned. In 1990, an additional 6,400 acres of rangelands that burned in 1985 were redrilled at a cost of nearly $99,500.

In July of 1987, the Jarbidge Green Stripping Plan was approved. Green strips are areas seeded to perennial vegetation that cures out later in the year than annual grasses or native range. Green stripping is being used to protect native ranges, and interrupt vast expanses of annual grasses to reduce large scale wild fires. The plan proposed green strips to cover 598 miles or approximately 22,000 acres. To date, 108 miles or approximately 3,800 acres have been completed.

Hazardous Materials

Many of the hazardous material sites on public lands are the result of illegal dumps, i.e. pesticide and/or herbicide containers, field stones, or in some cases, household garbage. Due to restriction on disposal and closures of local landfills, this type of action will continue with an upward trend. The close proximity of public lands to large tracts of agricultural lands in the Resource Area, increase the incidence and severity of this problem. Some lands actions have the potential to create hazardous material situations on public lands. Various permits and leases involve the use, storage and transportation of hazardous materials (underground storage tanks at telecommunication sites or highway maintenance shops) on public lands. Rights-of-way also have the potential to increase hazardous waste incidents within the Resource Area. Polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) can be associated with power lines, whereas gas and oil spills can occur from pipelines.

At present, BLM policy does not allow the lease of public lands for the purpose of sanitary landfills. However, land may be sold or exchanged for this purpose under the appropriate lands action. Hazardous materials incidents on public lands are handled according to the Idaho BLM Contingency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents. All actions are consistent with current Federal and State regulations.

Presently, there are six sites within the Jarbidge Resource Area that are on the Federal Facilities Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket.

Black Mesa Dump and Reeder Flying Service Airstrip #2 have all been cleaned up and are awaiting an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designation of no further action.

Reeder Flying Service Airstrip #1 was determined not to be contaminated and

a preliminary assessment with this information has been submitted to the EPA. Reeder Flying Service Airstrip #3 has undergone various removal and remediation actions to eliminate any threat that this site may pose to the public or environment. In December of 1991, a preliminary assessment was submitted to the EPA. Contamination at Clark's Air Service Airstrip was determined to be minimal, remediation is pending. Presently, landfills operating in the Jarbidge Resource Area include the House Creek and Roseworth sites. The Glenns Ferry landfill is still operating but was sold to Elmore County.

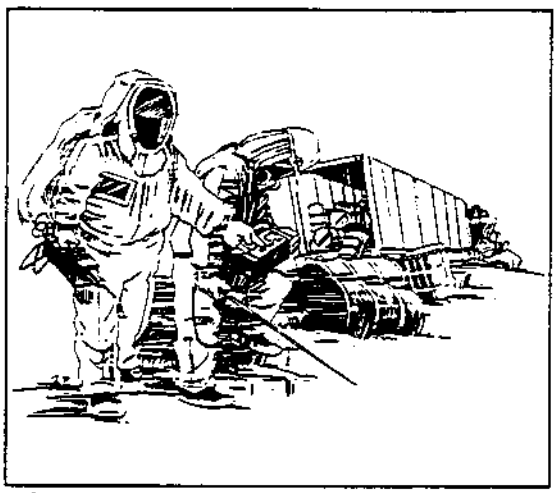

Figure 2. Hazardous Materials

We foresee an increase in the amount of both solid and hazardous waste illegally dumped on public lands. Educating the public to this situation and more law enforcement will help curtail this situation. Many of the landfills that have closed or that are closing will be subject to investigation and possible corrective action, as more information of past hazardous material activity becomes known. In 1992, an inventory of potential hazardous waste sites will be initiated. This will cover mine sites, lease and permit sites, rights-of-way, and any other activities that may produce a hazardous materials incident on public lands. All Lands and Minerals actions are reviewed both internally and externally, if appropriate, for compliance with Federal and State regulations. Special stipulations are developed as part of the permit or lease to safeguard human health, environmental damages and Bureau liability. Proposed activities will continue to be identified and analyzed for environmental impacts from hazardous materials.

Lands & Rights-of-Way

Overview:

At the time the Jarbidge RMP was adopted, the Jarbidge Resource Area encompassed 1,690,473 acres of public land. About 123,105 acres of these lands were transferred to the Bruneau Resource Area on January 1, 1992.

Another major land transfer was the creation of a new national monument in the Hagerman, Idaho area. The National Park Service acquired 3,788 acres from BLM to establish the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Up until September 15, 1989, the site had long been a major paleontological site managed by BLM, receiving numerous guided tours each year.

Throughout the past six years, the Lands and Rights-of-Way Program has been active in implementing the decisions for disposal and land use authorizations. The decision was to consider for transfer from Federal ownership 90,406 acres of public lands through sale, exchange, and the agricultural development programs.

Management direction for this Resource Area remains committed to these goals. However, emphasis on specific realty programs has shifted due to the reduction of land area managed, availability of water resources, and Departmental programs funded. This includes disposal through Desert Land Entry (DLE), the Carey Act, and private and State exchanges. These management shifts are addressed more fully in the following discussions.

Land Disposal:

There have been 222 acres of public land sold in six separate sales to eliminate isolated and hard to manage

tracts of public lands, or to remedy an encroachment. An additional parcel was sold to a local municipality under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This land tenure adjustment will continue through current efforts being made on other parcels that may be disposed of in upcoming years.

In 1987, the land use plan was finalized and there were approximately 258 DLE applications on file. Subsequent processing of these applications has resulted in a determination that several of the filings do not meet requirements in terms of economics, water needs, and soil capabilities. Approximately 252 of the original filings have been processed through either patent, relinquishment, or rejection. The remaining applications are currently undergoing assessment.

With the relinquishment and rejection of many of the DLEs processed over recent years, the RMP is clear that these lands will no longer be available under the Carey Act or the Desert Land Act. These lands would revert to a retention category and will not be available for further agricultural purposes. This is consistent with the general intent of Bureau policy of retention for multiple use management purposes.

Private and State land exchange opportunities exist but very little has been accomplished in this regard. Potential for boundary adjustments, acquisition of cultural resources, crucial wildlife and livestock habitat, and recreational site enhancement, are all attainable through a more active exchange program. More emphasis will be placed in the exchange program for future years.

Accomplishments already made in the exchange program accredits 4,163 acres of land being acquired in two separate exchanges, while transferring out of Federal ownership 6,722 acres. Three other proposals were analyzed in depth and rejected because they were not consistent with the land use plan decisions.

Land Use Authorizations:

Public lands are prone to numerous requests for short- and long-term uses. From a realty perspective this includes rights-of-way, leases, easements, and permits. There are nearly 1.3 million acres available for such uses.

Since 1987, there have been 84 rights-of-way and 46 land use permits granted. These range from small nonpermanent uses, like temporary placement of beehives (apiary yards) and hay stacks, to more long-lasting authorizations such as major pipeline or powerline systems, to roads and highways.

Unauthorized uses occur from time to time and are documented when found. Currently, the Resource Area has a large backlog of agricultural type trespass cases. There are other unauthorized activities including occupancy, utility lines, and hazardous materials. Much emphasis has been placed in resolving trespass in the past, but much more effort must be placed in this activity in the future. A total of 43 trespass cases were resolved with nearly that many new ones opened. Currently, there are 93 active trespass cases, in various stages of processing.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to reviewing proposals for additional training ranges for the U. S. Air Force. The Saylor Creek training range is situated within the Jarbidge Resource Area. Resource data presented in the Jarbidge RMP has been instrumental in assessing proposals and alternatives in Environmental Impact Statements prepared by the Air Force.

There have been three EISs prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for hydro-projects being proposed by Idaho Power Company on the Snake River. These projects include Dike, A. J. Wiley, and Lower Salmon Falls Dams. None of these projects have been constructed. However, the last two proposals may still be viable as interest in development increases.

Future Realty Actions:

Program goals through the next two years will be to reduce backlogs in rights-of-way, trespasses, and DLEs. More emphasis will be placed in viable exchange proposals by trading lands with the state or private individuals to enhance land boundaries or acquire resources with high public values. It is believed that better land management will be achieved through continued implementation of the realty RMP goals and objectives.

Minerals

Overview:

Since the RMP was implemented, mining and mineral materials activity have continued at a fairly level pace and no mineral leases have been issued. No significant changes or new operations have occurred within the Jarbidge Resource Area.

Mineral Materials:

Presently, there are 24 material sites in the Resource Area of which five are community pits. The Jarbidge Resource Area has issued free use permits to city and county agencies. From 1988 to date, approximately 100 sales of mineral materials (cinders, gravel, etc.) have been made, averaging 15 to 20 per year. Approximately 80 of these sales have been made from the community pits. It is estimated that 340 compliance inspections have been made on these material sites. Since 1987, inspection of all mineral material sites is occurring on an annual basis, in accordance with current Bureau policy. Where incidents of trespass have been discovered, steps were taken to resolve the trespass and to recover damages incurred.

Mining Law Administration:

Currently, there are four active mining plans of operation and one active mining notice of intent under the 3802 and 3809 regulations within the Jarbidge Resource Area. Inspection of exploration and mining operations is occurring twice a year in accordance with current Bureau policy. Since 1987 approximately 35 compliance inspections of these mining operations have been made. Incidents of non-compliance have been resolved with no Notices of Noncompliance now in effect.

Monitoring

Since 1987, the Jarbidge Resource Area has initiated an aggressive monitoring program to study trends of the rangeland vegetation resources. In accordance with Idaho's Minimum Monitoring Standard guidelines, trend is currently being monitored either by the Nested-Plot Frequency (NPF) method, or by comparing photo plots or points (or using a combination of the two). These methods for monitoring rangeland/riparian trends are customarily used throughout the Boise District, BLM, and the State of Idaho.

A total of 370 study sites in 111 allotments have been established in the Jarbidge Resource Area over the past five years (1987-92). About half a dozen sites were established in response to fire rehabilitation or green strip projects. As of January 1, 1992, 30 allotments in the Bennett Hills area (MUAs 1-4) were transferred to the Bruneau Resource Area of the Boise District. Of these 30 allotments, 17 contained established monitoring sites, totalling 88 sites in all. Table 1 shows those allotments and number of study sites transferred to the Bruneau Resource Area. Trend, in most cases, is static (showing no changes) in vegetation frequency for those sites that have been resampled. Those sites having only an initial reading cannot be analyzed for trend at this time.

Since the completion of the above allotment/study site transfer, there remains a total of 81 allotments and 283 study sites in the Jarbidge Resource Area today. Table 2 is a current summary of allotments and associated study sites in the Resource Area as of April 15, 1992.

In late 1988, a computer model Resource Monitoring (RESMON) tracking

Table 1. Allotments, number of study sites, types of studies, dates established, times read and trend in the MUAs transferred to Bruneau Resource Area.

Allot. Name	Allot. No.	No. of Sites	Study Type*	Estab. Date	Times Read	Trend
Ballantyne	1198	-	-	-	-	-
Camas Crk Fd	1091	-	-	-	-	-
Double Anchor	1097	-	-	-	-	-
E. Bennett Mtn	1101	2	NF	8/88	1	N/A
E. Hammett #5	1037	4	NF/PP	7/87&88	2	Static
Emigrant Cross	1028	3	NF	5/87	1	N/A
Hammett #1	1033	15	NF	7/87&90	1	N/A
Hammett #2	1034	-	-	-	-	-
Hammett #3	1035	-	-	-	-	-
Hammett #4	1036	14	NF/PP	5/87&90	1	N/A
Hammett State	1040	-	-	-	-	-
Hammett #6	1038	8	NF/PP	5/87&89	1	N/A
Hammett #7	1039	3	NF	6/90	1	N/A
Hammett Ind.	1054	-	-	-	-	-
Hammett Lvsk.	1195	-	-	-	-	-
Hot Springs	1103	2	NF	6/88	1	-
Joost Sec. 15	1199	-	-	-	-	-
King Hill Cyn	1041	-	-	-	-	-
Little Canyon	1068	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Alkali	1127	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Bennett	1045	3	NF/PP	5/87	1	N/A
Morrow Field	1104	1	PP	5/90	1	N/A
North Camas	1098	-	-	-	-	-
North Cold Spr	1128	5	NF	6/86&88	1	N/A
North Slope	1044	5	NF/PP	7/87&88	1	N/A
S.E. Alkali	1129	2	NF	8/88	1	N/A
S.W. Alkali	1030	3	NF/PP	6/86&88	1	N/A
South Camas	1043	3	PP	8/89	1	N/A
S. Cold Spr.	1130	2	NF/PP	6/86&88	1	N/A
Sugar Bowl	1124	3	NF	5/87&88	1	N/A
Totals:		88				

* NF = Nested Frequency
PP = Photo Plot

N/A - Initial reading only. Unable to establish trend at this time.