

DIFFERENCES AMONG ALTERNATIVES: HABITAT FOR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS

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<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p>	<p>Goal UV-CA-G- 1. Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.</p>																																																																										
	<p>Goal UV-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.</p>	<p>Goal UV-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.</p>	<p>Goal UV-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.</p>	<p>Goal UV-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.</p>	<p>Goal UV-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p>																																																																						
<p>Objective UV-NA-O- 1. Improve lands in poor ecological condition across the planning area. Improve lands in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs.</p> <p>Objective UV-NA-O- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities.</p> <p>Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock on 349,000 acres throughout the planning area.</p>	<p>Objective UV-I-O- 1. 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<p>Implement seeding treatments for livestock on 11,000 acres in the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.</p> <p>Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock on 13,000 acres in the middle third of the planning area.</p> <p>Implement brush control treatments for livestock on 32,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.</p>	<p>Objective UV-I-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="453 305 747 678"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>147,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>97,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>335,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>15,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	17,500	Non-Native Perennial	147,500	Non-Native Understory	17,500	Native Grassland	97,500	Native Shrubland	335,000	Unvegetated Areas	15,000	<p>Objective UV-II-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="774 305 1068 678"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>7,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>220,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>195,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>175,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>15,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	7,500	Non-Native Perennial	220,000	Non-Native Understory	17,500	Native Grassland	195,000	Native Shrubland	175,000	Unvegetated Areas	15,000	<p>Objective UV-III-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1089 305 1383 678"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>215,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>90,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>270,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	10,000	Non-Native Perennial	215,000	Non-Native Understory	25,000	Native Grassland	90,000	Native Shrubland	270,000	Unvegetated Areas	20,000	<p>Objective UV-IV-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1398 305 1692 678"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>7,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>65,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>72,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>97,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>372,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>15,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	7,500	Non-Native Perennial	65,000	Non-Native Understory	72,500	Native Grassland	97,500	Native Shrubland	372,500	Unvegetated Areas	15,000	<p>Objective UV-V-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1709 305 2003 678"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>60,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>150,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>130,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>257,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>15,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	17,500	Non-Native Perennial	60,000	Non-Native Understory	150,000	Native Grassland	130,000	Native Shrubland	257,500	Unvegetated Areas	15,000
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<p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with unacceptable soil loss. • Areas where grazing is at levels below preference. • Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens. • Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists. • Area for overall multiple use improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock. 	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments in VMA C to improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse. • Treatments in VMA A to move toward perennial vegetation. 	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments in VMA A to increase perennial forage for livestock. • Treatments in VMA B to increase forage for livestock. 	<p>Focus vegetation treatments on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments in VMA A to help lengthen the fire return interval. • Treatments in VMA D to protect native shrubland communities. 	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments in VMA D to improve sage-grouse habitat. • Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. 	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments in VMA A to move toward native perennial vegetation. • Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. 																																																																						

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Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.	Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments.	Same as Alternative III.	Removal of grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Targeted grazing would not be allowed. Chemical treatments could only be used after other methods have been exhausted.
<p>Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species</p> <p>Projects to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use seed mixtures that are normally found in that ecological zone.</p>	<p>Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species.</p> <p>Native species would be used when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes.</p>	<p>Non-native species would be primarily used in upland vegetation treatments.</p> <p>Fire-tolerant species would also be used, primarily in annual communities.</p>	<p>Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority for upland vegetation treatments.</p> <p>Treatments may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species.</p>	Same as Alternative I.	Upland vegetation treatments may use only native species or cultivars of native species.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (12,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Create 52 ungrazed reference areas (2,000 acres) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years.	Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (3,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Same as Alternative I.	Create 40 ungrazed reference areas (193,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).				
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.				

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<i>No goal stated.</i>	Goal RI-CA-G- 1. Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.				
Objective RI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in the northern half of the planning area, as well as the Diamond A Desert. Improve 44 miles of riparian habitat in the remainder of the planning area.	Objective RI-I-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at proper functioning condition (PFC). Improve 60 miles of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining 17 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-II-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-III-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.	Objective RI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.
Use a 100- to 300-foot riparian buffer zone to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Within the riparian buffer zone activities such as new road construction, use of herbicides and pesticides, and gravel extraction would be limited. Some activities would be excluded within 500 feet of riparian areas.	<p>Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 – Fish-bearing streams: approximately 300 feet from the edge of the stream • Category 2 – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: approximately 150 feet from the edge of the stream • Category 3 – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: approximately 150 feet from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake • Category 4 – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: approximately 50 feet from the edge of the stream, wetland, or landslide-prone area <p>Implement the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives in RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.</p>				
Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.	<p>Riparian management priorities would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 streams: streams rated as functioning-at-risk (FAR) or functioning-at-risk with a downward trend (FAR-DN; 77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration. • Priority 2 streams: streams rated as functioning-at-risk with an upward trend (FAR-UP) or non-functioning (NF;63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration. • Priority 3 streams: streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function. 				
	Stream reaches with game fish or habitat suitable for game fish would be a high priority for restoration.	Fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish, would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fuel breaks would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (3,000 acres).	Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (1,000 acres).	Same as Alternative II.	Same as Alternative I.	Create 6 ungrazed riparian reference areas (23,000 acres).

