

Policy

The first priority for managing a moderate use class is to provide for the production or use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, recreation, or other consumptive resources while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These areas will be managed for a moderate intensity of use and will generally be available for production and use of consumptive resources, subject to BLM standard operating procedures and other controls as needed. Sensitive and significant resource values, however, will be protected consistent with federal and state law. Public lands in a moderate use class will be retained in federal ownership.

Limited Use Class

A total of 313,684 acres are classified as limited use in this RMP.

Purpose

The purpose of a limited use class is to delineate public lands where strict environmental controls are required to protect sensitive and significant resources.

Policy

The first priority for managing a limited use class is to protect key wildlife habitat, scenic values, wilderness, cultural resources, watershed, and other sensitive and significant resources while providing for other compatible uses. These areas will be managed for relatively low intensities of use and with strict environmental controls to protect sensitive and significant values. A limited use class may be closed to or contain restrictions on off-road vehicle use, mineral and energy exploration and development, forest management practices, location of utility corridors and installations, and livestock grazing. Because of the relatively significant environmental considerations in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Special attention will be given to finding appropriate locations for compatible uses. Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in federal ownership.

Intensive Use/Development Class

The following nine recreation sites are classified as intensive management sites:

Existing

Tower Rock
Morgan Bar
Shoup Bridge
Williams Lake
Agency Creek
McFarland
Smokey's Cubs

Proposed

Elevenmile
Camp Creek

Purpose

The purpose of an intensive use/development class is to delineate areas suitable for large-scale intensive use and development.

Policy

The first priority for managing an intensive use/development class is to provide for existing and projected demands for large-scale intensive use and development. Intensive use areas are generally reserved for major recreation sites or facilities, off-road vehicle intensive use areas, large-scale mineral or energy extraction operations, military use areas, or major utility installations. These areas will be managed for a high intensity of use. Because of the potential for conflict with other uses in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Protection of sensitive and significant resources, however, will be ensured, consistent with federal and state law. Public lands in an intensive use/development class will be retained in federal ownership.

Transfer Class

A total of 5,835 acres are classified for transfer in this RMP.

Purpose

The purpose of a transfer class is to delineate public lands that may be considered for transfer out of federal ownership.

Policy

The transfer class is the class in which public lands may be transferred out of federal ownership under this plan. Public lands declared eligible for transfer by their inclusion in this category are subject to detailed consideration prior to the final decision regarding transfer. Transfer classes are delineated in response to specific developments, community expansion, and other transfers, including transfers to the state of Idaho. Transfer classes will be managed on a custodial basis until transferred from federal jurisdiction. New public investments in these lands will generally be kept to a minimum.

THE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

This section identifies resource management objectives and required management actions. The resource management objectives set priorities for managing the various resources in the area. Required management actions identify the management actions, limitations, and other provisions that are needed to accomplish the objectives.

Lands

Management Objective

Retain a public land base of 453,731 acres for long-term management in federal ownership.

Required Management Actions

BLM will examine 4,495 acres of public land, applying the standard operating procedures for sales or for state or private exchanges. An additional 1,340 acres will be considered for transfer under the Desert Land Act. Detailed examination will be made before any lands were transferred under sale, exchange, or Desert Land Application. BLM will acquire 5,600 acres. (Refer to Map 3 in Appendix of Lemhi Proposed RMP and Final EIS, June 1986).

Minerals

Management Objective

Manage 475,595 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral and energy exploration and development while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

Required Management Actions

A total of 161,909 acres will be open for oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations, 221,519 acres with seasonal occupancy restrictions, and 77,369 acres with no-surface-occupancy restrictions. Approximately 14,796 acres will be closed to oil and gas leasing. About 161,214 acres will be available for geothermal leasing with standard stipulations, 221,519 acres with seasonal occupancy restrictions, and 79,569 acres with no surface occupancy; 15,596 acres will be closed. A total of 160,848 acres will be open for solid mineral leasing with standard stipulations; 221,885 acres will be open with seasonal restrictions; and, 92,165 acres will be closed to solid mineral leasing. A total of 455,434 acres will be open for the location of mining claims, while 18,921 acres will be closed to mineral entry. An additional 540 acres will be open to location but subject to superior rights established by community pit and mineral material site designations. Mineral material (sand and gravel) disposals will be permitted on 382,888 acres; 92,010 acres will be closed.

Forest Management

Management Objective

Intensively manage 28,865 acres of available commercial forest land for the sustained yield production of timber (see Map 5 in Proposed RMP/EIS). Manage 23,138 acres of woodland for the production of woodland products (firewood, Christmas trees, etc.).

Required Management Actions

Timber sales could occur on 28,865 acres. Of this, 1,179 acres will receive special management to protect crucial elk winter range. An additional 581 acres will receive special management to enhance the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Setting aside of 1,354 acres of commercial forest land will be made to protect Wilderness Values within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area. Another 15 acres will be set aside to protect the Williams Lake Recreation Site. In order to maintain the visual qualities of the existing landscape along the Continental Divide Trail, 75 acres of commercial forest land will be set-aside. No timber harvesting will be scheduled in any of these set-aside stands.

Woodland product sales (firewood, Christmas trees, etc.) will occur on 23,183 acres. Within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area, 2,509 acres will be closed to woodland product sales. In addition, 622 acres will be closed along the Continental Divide Trail.

Range Management

Management Objective

Manage 459,481 acres for grazing. Improve 595 acres of poor condition range to good and 21,876 acres of fair condition range to good. Provide 52,632 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage in 20 years.

Required management Actions

In the long-term, reductions will be made on 46 allotments, increases will occur on 6, and 36 will remain unchanged. Grazing adjustments will be made over the 20-year life of the RMP and will occur only after conducting monitoring studies and coordinating with affected users. The initial stocking level of 43,602 AUMs will be below the active preference and the five-year average use. The long-term stocking level of 52,632 AUMs will be 18 percent below the active preference but only 2 percent below the five-year average use. Proposed improvements will include 22,700 acres of brush control, 4,400 acres of seedings, 32 springs, 50 miles of pipelines, 4 reservoirs, and 63 miles of fences. Selected allotment management plans (AMPs) will be designed to maintain or enhance forage for wintering elk herds (8,800 acres). Refer to Appendix B (Draft RMP/EIS) for specific allotment recommendations. (Refer to Table 5 of Proposed Lemhi RMP/EIS for Allotment Summary, and Map 4 in Appendix of Proposed Lemhi RMP/EIS).

These management actions will be accomplished in the steps outlined in the Implementation Section of this document.

Wildlife

Management Objective

Provide forage for 9,350 deer, 2,194 elk, 2,950 antelope, and 200 bighorn sheep. Improve 4,000 acres of elk winter/spring range; 17,000 acres of deer, antelope, and sage grouse seasonal ranges; and 22,000 acres of non-game habitat from fair to good ecological range condition to good. Improve 7,320 acres of seasonal elk and bighorn sheep ranges. Provide 40 acres of river habitat for waterfowl. Provide a more consistent water supply on 81,000 acres of antelope, sage grouse, and non-game habitat in the Gilmore and Muddy Creek area. Preserve habitat values of 30 small isolated seeps and wet meadows created by livestock water developments. Enhance big game movement and safety. Protect the future integrity of the elk breeding area in McDevitt Creek and antelope migration corridor near Center Ridge. Enhance the integrity and availability of 69,057 acres of crucial habitat of raptors, waterfowl, elk, and other wildlife. Improve the quality of 10,400 acres of crucial elk and bighorn habitat. Enhance bighorn sheep health protection in the Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile area.

Required Management Actions

BLM will reserve 6,466 AUMs of forage for big game. Table 4 of the Appendix in Proposed RMP/EIS illustrates big game forage demand for the Management Plan. Seven habitat management plans (HMPs) would be developed on about 299,000 acres.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Elk/Deer	Haynes Cr. to Hayden Cr.	54,000
Elk/Deer	Kenney Cr. to Peterson Cr.	58,000
Elk/Bighorn	Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile	28,000
Antelope/Sage Grouse	Leadore to Blue Dome	120,000
Antelope/Sage Grouse	Upper Lemhi Valley	39,000
Nongame/Waterfowl	Morgan Bar	16
Nongame/Waterfowl	Tower Creek Flats	40

Prescribed burning will occur on 7,320 acres of big game range and 40 acres of river habitat. The BLM will install 18 guzzlers, construct six miles of pipeline, and fence numerous guzzlers (2 1/2 miles of fence). Roughly 3 to 4 miles of fence will be required on 30 small isolated seeps. About 154 miles of fence will be modified for big game movement and safety. The BLM will acquire 4,960 acres of state land and 640 acres of private land to protect critical habitat in the McDevitt Creek and Center Ridge areas. Crucial habitat will be enhanced through adoption of no-surface-occupancy restrictions on 69,057 acres available for mineral leasing. The quality of 8,800 acres of big game habitat will be improved through restrictions on livestock use and timber management and harvest. Bighorn sheep health protection will be improved by shifting all domestic sheep use to cattle use from Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile Creek.

Watershed Management

Management Objective

Manage 31 miles of stream to improve riparian habitat and water quality. Improve 500 acres of riparian area that are in unsatisfactory condition. Improve 1,494 acres of unsatisfactory condition watershed to satisfactory condition.

Required Management Actions

Four watershed activity plans will be written to help evaluate management options in different areas within the RMP area. New timber harvest roads will be closed when timber sales were completed except for use in forest and fire management. BLM will fence 15.5 miles of perennial stream riparian area.

Fisheries Habitat Management

Management Objective

Maintain 94.7 miles of stream in their present condition; improve 3.0 miles of McDevitt Creek from fair to excellent condition. Improve 2.5 miles of Sevenmile Creek, a tributary to the Salmon River.

Required Management Actions

Livestock grazing will be managed to maintain existing fishery habitat. Surface disturbing activities that will affect fisheries habitat will not be allowed. Stabilization projects will be considered in areas with unstable banks. Livestock will be excluded on 2.25 miles of Sevenmile Creek and 3.0 miles of McDevitt Creek and associated riparian areas by fencing. The current land ownership pattern will be retained.

Recreation Management

Management Objective

Recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in the three special recreation management areas—the Salmon River, Continental Divide Trail, and Lewis and Clark Trail. Continue to manage for dispersed recreation by maintaining existing recreational opportunity settings. Manage the visual resources on lands outside of the special recreation management areas to maintain existing scenic qualities. Protect existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites.

Required Management Actions

The three special recreation management areas (SRMAs) will entail mineral withdrawals, restrictions on some nonrecreational uses, and restrictive visual management practices. A recreation area management plan (RAMP) will be written for each SRMA.

The Salmon River SRMA will include 4,405 acres. River access recreation sites will be constructed at Camp Creek and Elevenmile. The river will be managed as a "recreational" wild and scenic river, but Congressional direction for a formal Wild and Scenic River Study is not anticipated.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA will include 4,600 acres that will result from establishing a trail corridor one-quarter mile on either side of the proposed treadway. Visual resources within the corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines within a 200-foot-wide corridor along the treadway and under Class III guidelines within the remainder of the corridor. The set-aside of 75 acres of commercial forest land from the timber production base and all woodland product sales will be proposed. Restricted management activities on an additional 518 acres is proposed in order to maintain existing visual qualities. Restrictions may be imposed on the size of harvest units, siting of roads, slash disposal, and percentage of cover reduction.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA will include 9,080 acres that will result from establishing a corridor wide enough to retain the natural aspects of the historic trail route. Visual resources within the corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines. Withdrawal of 1,820 acres from mineral entry will protect the trail route from disturbance. A no-surface-occupancy stipulation will also be added to all leases within these 1,820 acres.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Recreation opportunities in the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes will remain similar to the existing situation. Lands will be managed in the primitive (.8 percent), semi-primitive nonmotorized (2.4 percent), semi-primitive motorized (4.2 percent), roaded natural (90.6 percent), and rural (2 percent) opportunity classes.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Lands open to unrestricted vehicle use will total 428,540 acres (93 percent). Recreational off-road vehicle use will continue to be limited during winter months on 16,230 acres (6 percent of the RMP area) of big game winter range. A year-round closure to all vehicle use will be placed on 14,796 acres (3.5 percent of the RMP area) because of a wilderness designation.

Visual Resource Management

For visual resource management, the following designations will be made: Class I, 14,796 acres; Class II, 29,280 acres; Class III, 184,205 acres; and Class IV, 231,285 acres. No interim classes would remain.

Withdrawals

Existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites will be protected by withdrawal of 186.75 acres from mineral entry. However, revocation of existing withdrawals on 640.14 acres no longer required for recreation program management will be recommended. An additional 800

acres at Sharkey Hot Springs will be closed to geothermal leasing, subject to valid existing rights. Withdrawal of 15 acres of productive timber in the existing Williams Lake Campground will be necessary.

Wilderness

Management Objective

Recommend 14,796 acres of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area as wilderness and the remaining 10,126 acres as nonwilderness.

Required Management Actions

Following designation by Congress, a wilderness management plan will be prepared for 14,796 acres of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Area. Approximately 1,354 acres of commercial forest land will be withdrawn from the timber production base. The 14,796 acres will be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing as well as closed to all vehicle use.

Fire Management

Management Objectives

Manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber. Reduce fire hazard potential on 10,000 acres.

Required Management Actions

Full suppression fire management guidelines will be followed on 444,770 acres. Under this alternative, 14,796 acres will be managed under the suppression restriction to maintain wilderness quality. All developed recreation sites and sites that have the potential for site development will be under suppression restrictions, i.e., no retardant, no heavy equipment use, and no fire line explosives. Prescribed burns for vegetation manipulation will be conducted on 30,078 acres. Heavy fuel loading caused by logging debris and dead trees will be reduced on 10,000 acres to decrease the likelihood of having a disastrous fire.

Cultural Resources

Management Objectives

Manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full range of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with state and federal laws.

Required Management Actions

Cultural resource management plans will be written and implemented for the Chief Tendoy Cemetery, the Salmon River corridor, the two Indian burial areas, and the Lewis and Clark Trail. These sites will be protected from surface disturbance through appropriate withdrawals and no-surface-occupancy restrictions:

<u>Cultural Area</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>No Surface Occupancy</u>
a. Chief Tendoy Cemetery	80 acres	160 acres
b. Lewis and Clark Trail	1,820 acres	1,820 acres
c. Salmon River Corridor	120 acres	4,405 acres
d. Indian Area A	120 acres	120 acres
e. Indian Area B	120 acres	880 acres