

## Unleased or Unpermitted Tracts

Unleased or unpermitted tracts generally will remain available for further consideration for authorized grazing, as provided for in the current BLM grazing regulations. However, certain tracts currently closed or restricted to grazing use will remain so.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Program

### General

Fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project-level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat. Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition. Such projects will be identified through habitat management plans or multiple resource management activity plans.

### Seasonal Restrictions

Seasonal restrictions will continue to be applied where they are needed to mitigate the impacts of human activities on important seasonal wildlife habitat. The major types of seasonal wildlife habitat and the time periods in which restrictions may be needed are shown in Table 1. Approximately 60 percent (226,000 acres) of the resource area lies within areas potentially subject to restriction. During any given year, the authorized officer may waive seasonal restrictions if actual conditions do not warrant them.

TABLE 1  
SEASONAL WILDLIFE RESTRICTIONS

Habitat	Restricted Period
Big Game Winter Range (Deer/Elk/Bighorn)	11/15 - 03/15
Elk Rut Areas	08/15 - 10/01
Elk Calving Areas	04/30 - 06/30
Raptor Nest Sites	Dates vary by species
Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds	03/01 - 04/30
Sage Grouse Nesting & Broodrearing	04/30 - 06/30
Antelope Fawning Grounds	05/01 - 06/30
Antelope Winter Ranges	11/15 - 03/15

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the BLM biological assessment process, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. All activities occurring within the interagency wolf coordination zone (east of Idaho Highway 28 between Kenney Creek and Eighteenmile Creek) will be subject to Section 7 consultation.

Table 2 shows species and areas where all management activities will be analyzed for possible impacts during the writing of any activity plans or environmental assessments.

TABLE 2  
T & E PLANT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Species	Area
<u>Physaria didymocarpa</u> var. <u>lyrata</u>	Williams Creek
	Pattee Creek
	Basin Creek
	Trail Creek
	Agency Creek
<u>Astragalus scaphoides</u>	Agency Creek

The only activity that would seriously impact Penstemon lemhiensis is herbicide spraying, particularly along roads. An analysis of impacts to populations of this species will be done if herbicide spraying is proposed.

#### Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Sufficient forage and cover will be provided for wildlife on seasonal habitat. Forage and cover requirements will be incorporated into allotment management plans and will apply to specific areas of primary wildlife use.

Range improvements generally will be designed to achieve both wildlife and range objectives. Existing fences will be modified and new fences will be built so as to allow wildlife passage. Water developments generally will not be established for livestock where significant conflicts with wildlife for vegetation would result.

Vegetation manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impact on wildlife habitat and to improve it whenever possible. These projects will comply with sage grouse, antelope, and mule deer management guidelines. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be consulted two years in advance on all vegetation manipulation projects. Animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and, if necessary, restore their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and BLM Manual 6740). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation. Bridges and culverts will be designed and installed to maintain adequate fish passage.

Riparian habitat needs will be taken into consideration in developing livestock grazing systems and pasture designs. Some of the techniques that can be used to lessen impacts are:

1. Constructing shade structures in conjunction with water development away from riparian areas
2. Using prescribed fire to draw cattle away from riparian zones
3. Changing class of stock from cow/calf pairs to herded sheep or yearlings.
4. Eliminating hot season grazing or scheduling hot season grazing for only one year out of every three.
5. Locating salt away from riparian zones.
6. Laying out pasture fences so that each pasture has as much riparian habitat as possible.
7. Locating fences so that they do not confine or concentrate livestock near the riparian zone.
8. Developing alternative sources of water to lessen the grazing pressure on the riparian habitat.
9. Using temporary electric fencing.
10. Excluding livestock completely from riparian habitat as a last resort by using protective fencing.

#### Forestry Activities

Where applicable, the elk management guidelines contained in Elk Habitat Relations for Central Idaho (Ralphs, 1981) will be followed. These include:

1. Managing public vehicle access to maintain the habitat effectiveness of security cover and key seasonal habitat (such as winter range and calving/nursery areas) for deer and elk.
2. Maintaining adequate untreated peripheral zones around important moist sites (for example, wet sedge meadows, springs, and riparian zones).

3. Ensuring that slash depth inside clear cuts does not exceed 1 1/2 feet.
4. Generally discouraging thinning immediately adjacent to clear cuts.

#### Fencing

To the extent possible, fences will be located and constructed to maximize their visibility, to take advantage of flat areas (benches, saddles, etc.), and to cross contour lines.

Existing fences posing a potential or known problem to big game movement will be modified as necessary.

All new fence construction will comply with the Lemhi Resource Area fencing policy dated May 20, 1983. See Range Improvements and Treatments. 37

#### Water Development

1. Free water for use by wildlife shall be maintained at or within 1/4 mile of all spring developments. This water shall remain available for at least as long a period as predevelopment conditions provided.
2. Adequate water shall remain at spring developments to maintain any associated riparian zone.
3. Height of troughs or other water containers shall not exceed 20 inches above ground level.
4. Bird ladders or other appropriate wildlife escape devices will be installed and maintained in all water troughs.
5. As appropriate, pipelines and troughs will remain charged with water from June 15 to October 1 to provide for wildlife that has become dependent upon them. Maintenance of these projects will be negotiated between BLM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the permittee.

#### Vegetation Manipulation

1. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall be given at least two years notice prior to any vegetation manipulation project.
2. Brush control projects will be designed to maximize edge effect to the extent possible. Islands of untreated sagebrush will be incorporated into project design as necessary to provide cover for sage grouse and other species.
3. Proposed brush manipulation projects on sage grouse winter and/or nesting range or antelope winter and/or fawning range must have a predicted neutral or beneficial effect on these species.

- a. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 10 percent on sage grouse broodrearing areas.
  - b. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 20 percent on sage grouse nesting and wintering areas.
  - c. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 10 percent on general antelope ranges. Winter ranges and spring fawning areas will not be treated unless overall benefits to antelope will result.
4. Brush control proposals within 2 miles of known strutting grounds will be subject to on-site inspection by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel to determine prohibited areas.
  5. As a rule, no brush control will be allowed within 100 yards of streams, meadows, or secondary drainages (dry and intermittent). The desirability of increasing or decreasing the width on specific areas will be determined via on-site evaluation by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel.
  6. A mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs (if appropriate) will be used in all range rehabilitation or improvement projects.

#### Soil, Water, and Air

##### General

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such an evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed projects and the sensitivity of the resources. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to prevent adverse impacts to soil, water, and air.

##### Soils

Adequate cover will be maintained to keep soil erosion within tolerable limits. Recent research suggests the soil loss tolerance figure for rangeland is 1.0 ton per acre per year (personal communication with Agricultural Research Service staff).

##### Water

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with state and federal standards. State agencies will be consulted on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Management actions on public land within municipal watersheds will be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

All BLM initiated or authorized programs and actions potentially affecting wetland-riparian areas will comply with the spirit and intent of Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Act) and BLM Policy as put forth in BLM

Manual Section 6740.06. These directives stress the avoidance of (1) "...long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetland-riparian areas" and (2) the preservation and enhancement of "the natural and beneficial values of wetland-riparian areas which may include constraining or excluding those uses that cause significant, long-term ecological damage."

Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable.

The Lemhi RMP will utilize State Director Planning Guidance being prepared in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency titled Resource Management Plan Water Quality/Riparian Monitoring Guidance. This document utilizes or references techniques and procedures specifically developed to detect water quality and riparian habitat degradation prior to their having significant adverse impact on beneficial uses.

#### Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), BLM-administered lands were given a Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. The BLM will manage all public lands as Class II unless they are reclassified by the state as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). Administrative actions on the public lands will comply with the air quality classification for that specific area.

#### Recreation

##### Recreation Opportunities

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, depending on demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Developed recreation facilities receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected. Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified to remain in public ownership.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project-level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with recreation management objectives.

## Motorized Vehicle Use

Travel planning, including the designation of areas open, restricted, and closed to motorized vehicle access, will remain a high priority for public land. Public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally will remain available for such use without restrictions. Exceptions to this general rule may be authorized after consideration of the following criteria:

1. The need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resource values.
2. The need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitats.
3. The need to promote user safety.

Public land within areas currently having motorized vehicle use restrictions generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be closed seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use except emergency or authorized vehicles.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas only where problems have been identified. Areas not designated as restricted or closed will remain open for motorized vehicle use.

## Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to maintain designated visual resource management classes.

## Wilderness Resources

The Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) will continue to be managed in compliance with the Interim Management Policy until it is reviewed and acted upon by Congress. If all or part of this area is designated as wilderness by Congress, it will be managed under BLM's Wilderness Management Policy. A site-specific wilderness management plan will be developed to guide future management.

If all or part of the Eighteenmile WSA is not designated as wilderness, it will be managed under the multiple use guidelines set forth in this RMP.