Required Management Actions

1. Examine 800 acres of public land for sale or private or state exchanges. Where possible and feasible, improvement in management will be a key factor in disposal of public lands in this management area.

2. No areas would be closed to mineral leasing or mining claim location and only 1,800 acres would need to be closed to sale of mineral materials. Seasonal restricitons would apply to 8,200 acres in the unit and 800 acres would be restricted to no surface occupancy for mineral leasing and exploration.

3. Timber sales could be held on 1,788 acres of public land near the Targhee National Forest boundary. Most of the sales would use select cut methods with only 124 acres clear cut in small blocks.

4. Reductions in grazing use would be made in 5 allotments and an increase in one allotment. Most of these actions would be in the smaller individual allotments. For the management area as a whole, the initial level of 9,066 AUMs is below the active preference of 9,285 AUMs, but mroe than the 5 year average of 8,422 AUMs. In the long term, the grazing level for active use would be about the same as total grazing preference. Proposed improvements would include 2,875 acres of brush control, 1 spring, 5 wells, 5.5 miles of pipeline, 5 reservoirs, and 11.5 miles of fence.

5. Develop a monitoring plan to ensure that habitat is satisfactory in key elk calving areas, antelope fawning areas and big game winter range.

6. The 1.5 miles on 3 Mile Creek would be monitored to ensure improvements in water quality and riparian habitat.

7. The 1,540 acres designated for semi-primitive motorized use would be monitored periodically to ensure maintenance of outdoor recreation values.

8. Develop and implement the Medicine Lodge Cultural Resources Management Plan for those cultural resources in the management unit.

MANAGEMENT AREA 4 -

Management Area 4 consists of a large percentage of isolated tracts totalling 28,627 acres of public land. These tracts of land are scattered throughout the resource area. This management area provides livestock forage, wildlife habitat, timber production, and contains the Victor municipal watershed.

Management Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: 23,879 acres.
   b. Classified as Limited Use: 1,380 acres on the Idaho-Wyoming state line, which is the Victor municipal watershed.
   c. Classified as Transfer: 3,288 acres classified as transfer by sale or exchange, 80 acres having a DLE application.

2. Retain 25,259 acres of public land in public ownership to be managed for multiple use.

3. Manage 95,570 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral and energy exploration and development.

4. Intensively manage 3,623 acres of commercial forest land for timber production according to current silvicultural practices. Manage 3,203 acres of woodland to meet local demand with consideration being given to wildlife and watershed needs.

5. Manage 18,678 acres for grazing purposes. Continue to keep 1,380 acres on the Victor watershed closed to livestock grazing. Improve 600 acres of fair condition range to good. Increase stocking levels in the long term by 90 AUMs over existing use levels.

6. Provide forage and cover for existing numbers of wildlife and maintain or enhance upland game habitat.

7. Continue to manage the area for dispersed recreation with 945 acres closed to winter and early spring ORV use and 350 acres completely closed to ORVs.

8. Improve or maintain water quality, fisheries and riparian habitat on 7.4 miles of stream.

9. Manage 28,627 acres of public lands under full fire suppression.

Required Management Actions

1. Examine 3,288 acres for transfer from federal ownership through sale, private exchange or state exchange. Examine 200 acres for public purposes or exchange.

2. Mining, mineral leasing and mining claim locations would essentially continue as they are being handled at present with no changes.

3. About 466 acres would be withdrawn from the commercial forest land base for T&E species and other multiple uses. About 1,750 acres could be clear cut in small blocks and an additional 1,873 acres select cut. The timber is principally in the "Donut Hole" and areas adjacent to the Targhee National Forest. An additional 3,203 acres of woodland could be made available for sales of forest products to meet local and regional demand.

4. Reductions in the level of grazing use would be made in 6 allotments. All of the reductions are in small allotmetns of less than 100 AUMs with one exception: the Victor allotment. The initial stocking rate of 405 AUMs is quite similar to the 5 year average use of 425 AUMs, but less than the preference of 816 AUMs. For this management area as a whole, initial levles of grazing use total 3,813 AUMs, which is somewhat more than the 5 year average but less than active preference. Proposed improvements include 1,360 acres of brush control, 25 acres seeding, 2 springs, 2 wells, 3 reservoirs, and 4.75 miles of fence.

5. Manage 1.2 miles of Game Creek to improve riparian habitat and improve water quality. Monitor 6.2 miles of stream to ensure maintenance of existing satisfactory riparian habitat and water quality.

6. About 350 acres would be closed to ORV use near Henry's Lake and seasonal restrictions on ORV use would be enforced in the area near Monida Pass.

MANAGEMENT AREA 5 - SANDS

This management area includes 187,431 acres of the Sands Habitat Management Area. A primary consideration for the area is provision of suitable elk winter range with important winter range for deer and moose as well. The SAnds HMP includes multiresource planning objectives and these objectives carry over into this RMP. Livestock grazing and recreation are important in the area.

Management Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: 176,973 acres.
   b. Classified as Limited Use: 10,380 acres within the 9-mile ACEC.
   c. Classified as Transfer: No acres were classified for transfer. Area has potential for state exchange actions.

2. Retain 187,431 acres of public land in federal ownership and manage for multiple use values.

3. Manage 215,560 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral exploration and development.

4. Intensively manage 4,253 acres for timber production.

5. Manage 169,910 acres for grazing. Improve livestock distribution. Improve 27,000 acres in poor or fair condition to good condition, and increase available livestock forage by 1,042 AUMs over the next 20 years.

6. Manage wildlife habitat for elk, deer and moose in accordance with the Sands HMP.

7. Reduce archaeological site vandalism and mange cultural resources for management and potential scientific uses.

8. Intensively manage the White Sands dunes for ORV use as a Special Recreation Management Area in conjunction with Management Area 6. Manage remainder of area for dispersed recreation opportunities.

9. Improve 2 miles of Sand Creek from very poor to good condition.

10. Manage 90,000 acres as limited fire suppression and 97,000 acres as full suppression.

Required Management Action

1. Both state and private exchanges would be encouraged in order to improve the pattern of private, state and public land in the management area. Land examinations would be needed for all feasible exchange opportunities.

2. Mineral leasing, material sales and locatable minerals actions would be the same as the present situation. For maintenance of important wildlife

habitat areas, most of the area would have continued seasonal occupancy restrictions for mineral leasing, 4,340 acres could be leased under no surface occupancy and 2,160 acres would be closed to leasing. About 1,140 acres are closed to mining claim location and 11,000 acres closed to sale of mineral materials.

3. Timber sales could be conducted on 3,623 acres with only 78 acres withdrawn from the commercial forest base for T&E species and other multiple uses. The majority could be clear cut in small blocks with about 1,524 acres by selective cut methods. About 3,203 acres of woodland would be managed for production of forest products on demand with stipulations to maintain wildlife habitat and watershed conditions.

4. For this management area as a whole, the initial stocking level for livestock is slightly more than active preference and also above the 5 year average. However, reductions in livestock grazing would be made in 4 allotments and increases in 7 allotments. Proposed improvements include 24,670 acres of brush control, 80 acres seeding, 2 springs, 15 wells, 5 reservoirs, and 27.25 miles of fence.

5. Continue to manage and monitor wildlife habitat under terms of the Sands Habitat Management Plan.

6. Improve 1 mile of Sand Creek through fencing and management and maintain existing satisfactory riparian habitat and water quality on 12.8 miles. Periodic monitoring would be needed to ensure improvement and maintenance.

7. A management plan would be developed for the "Dunes" Special Recreation Management Area, a portion of which is in management area 6. The dunes would be managed for ORV use. A total of 2,560 acres would be closed to ORVs and a seasonal closure on ORVs on 15,800 acres would be enforced.

8. A special designation would be made on public lands in this management area, some of which is in conjunction with Sand Mountain Area #6. An Area of Critical Environmental Concern would be designated for the "Nine Mile Knoll" elk winter range and an ACEC management plan developed and implemented.

9. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan. The plan would outline management and provide for monitoring of site conditions. The plan would be implemented upon completion.

MANAGEMENT AREA 6 - SAND MOUNTAIN

The 21,100 acre area is located in the middle of the Sands Habitat Management Area. This area west of St. Anthony consists of the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area. The most important considerations in the area are recreation uses and potentials and wildlife winter range. It is a separate management unit because of its status as a WSA.

Management Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: 6,480 acres

b. Classified as Limited Use: 14,620 acres within the 9-mile ACEC.
c. Classified as Transfer: No acres were classified for transfer.

2. Retain 21,100 acres of public land in federal ownership for long term multiple use management.

3. Manage 21,100 acres for mineral and energy exploration and development.

4. Manage 16,366 acres for livestock grazing to improve 1,800 acres from fair to good condition, improve livestock distribution and increase livestock forage by 126 AUMs over existing levels after 20 years. Management will be consistent with the Sands HMP.

5. Manage critical elk winter range consistent with the objectives of the Sands HMP, including deer and moose winter range. Provide winter vehicle closures to protect wintering elk under an ACEC management plan.

6. Manage the Sand Mountain area to promote the most appropriate designation, management and use of the area for recreation consistent with the objectives of the Sands HMP.

7. Recommend the Sand Mountain WSA as nonsuitable for addition to the national wilderness preservation system.

8. Manage 21,100 acres as full fire suppression.

Required Management Actions

1. All of this area would be open to sales of mineral materials, mining claim location and also open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions provided that Congress and the President accept the recommendation as non-suitable for this WSA. Until Congress acts, the area would be managed under the Bureau's Interim Management Policy, essentially closed to new mineral leases or developments. No new mineral actions should be allowed until Congress acts.

2. Of the three grazing allotments in this management area, a reduction would be made in one allotment. The area will be monitored periodically to ensure proper use of the range resource. Proposed improvements include 1,600 acres of brush control, 200 acres seeding, 2 well, 1 mile pipeline, and 3 miles of fence.

3. Since this management area is included in the Sands Habitat Management Plan already completed, wildlife habitat would be managed and monitored under terms of that plan.

4. A management plan would be developed for the Dunes Special Recreation Management Area, a portion of which is located in Area 5. The Dunes would be managed for ORV use, consistent with the Sands HMP. If Sand Mountain is designated a National Natural Landmark, this factor would be considered in the management plan. Two campgrounds would be developed to accomodate ORV use. About 14,620 acres would be closed to ORV use during the winter in connection with the Nine Mile KNoll ACEC.

5. The Sand Mountain WSA is recommended as nonsuitable for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system and would be managed under the Bureau's Interim Management Policy until Congress acts. If Congress accepts the no wilderness recommendation, all of the WSA would be included in the Dunes SRMA and managed accordingly.

6. A special designation would be made to designate the Nine Mile Knoll ACEC and managed according to the ACEC managemetn plan (refer to Area 5, Required Management Actions). The Dunes SRMA would be designated and managed according to the plan.

MANAGEMENT AREA 7 - IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY (INEL)

This management area includes 140,415 acres of the eastern portion of the INEL. Grazing occurs on 125,036 acres in the Medicine Lodge Resource Area and on 44,617 acres of INEL within the Big Butte Resource Area. Dominant resource uses are livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

Managment Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: No acres were classified as moderate use.
   b. Classified as Limited Use: 140,415 acres, all within the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL).
   c. Classified for Transfer: No acres were classified for transfer.

2. Manage 125,040 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral and energy exploration and development in coordination with DOE.

3. Manage 169,653 acres of the INEL in Medicine Lodge and Big Butte Resource Areas for livestock grazing. Improve livestock distribution and improve range condition from poor and fair to good on 13,000 acres. Increase livestock forage by 4,177 AUMs over existing levels after 20 years.

4. Maintain satisfactory habitat for antelope and sage grouse, including strutting and nesting areas and winter range.

5. Manage cultural resources for potential scientific uses.

Required Management Actions

1. At the present time, 125,040 acres in the Medicine Lodge Resource Area portion of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) are closed to mineral leasing and mining claim location, and 56,520 acres are closed to sale of mineral materials. Following the review of the INEL withdrawal and completion of this plan, 106,840 acres would be opened for mineral leasing and the 125,040 acres opened for both mining claim location and sales of mineral materials.

2. No reductions are needed in the Twin Buttes allotment, which includes part of the INEL in the Big Butte Resource Area. Proposed improvements include 8,000 acres of brush control, 5,000 acres seeding, 2 wells, and 2 reservoirs.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8 - WILLOW CREEK/TEX CREEK

The Tex Creek/Willow Creek area contains 11,490 acres of public land. This management area follows the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Willow Creek 208 Project boundary and includes the Tex Creek Wildlife Management ARea. Public lands consist of relatively small blocks and parcels with most of the land in private ownership and being farmed. Much of the Willow Creek canyon is public land. The soil erosion taking place is a result of farming practices and the area has been rated as one of the top ten areas needing soil and water protection in the United States. BLM is a cooperator in the SCS 208 Project as well as the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Management Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: 11,,490 acres.
   b. Classified as Limited Use: No acres were classified as limited use.
   c. Classified as Transfer: No acres were classified for transfer.

2. Retain 11,490 acres of public land for long term multiple use management.

3. Manage about 38,120 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral exploration and development, primarily oil and gas.

4. Manage about 10,676 acres for livestock grazing to maintain present 92% good range condition and to support Tex Creek wildlife program.

5. Maintain or improve high quality big game winter range in support of Tex Creek agreement. Provide rehabilitation on about 700 acres disturbed by farming operations.

6. Maintain good to excellent riparian vegetation on 6.8 miles and improve 2 miles of Willow Creek. Maintain good to excellent condition on 5.2 miles Gray's Lake Outlet, 1.6 miles on Tex Creek and 2 miles on Hell Creek in support of the 208 project.

7. Manage recreation resources to provide 8,290 acres for ORV use, seasonal ORV closures on 3,355 acres and close 3,200 acres to ORV use. A total of 6,485 acres would be designated as semi-primitive non-motorized.

8. Manage 11,490 acres as full fire suppression.

9. Manage cultural resources for management and potential scientific uses.

Required Management Actions

1. Land examinations would be made on private and state exchange proposals as they arise to support the Willow Creek 208 Project.

2. Management of the mineral estate in this management area would continue as under the present situation. No new management actions would be needed.

3. Timber sales could be conducted on 118 acres by the select cut method and 91 acres of woodland are available for timber management. Sales would be scheduled to meet local and regional demand.

4. Reductions in the level of grazing use would be made in 6 of the 13 allotments in this management area. The initial level of grazing would total 1,790 AUMs, which is less than both the preference (1,935) and the 5 year average (1,833 AUMs). There are two miles of fence proposed in the area.

5. Management of the wildlife habitat would be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Tex Creek wildlife program. About 700 acres of land disturbed by farming operations would be rehabilitated, 20 acres seeded to bitterbrush and 10 acres of aspen treatment.

6. Two miles of fence would be needed to improve 1 mile of stream for riparian and water quality values. An additional 16 miles of stream would be managed to improve riparian habitat and water quality while 3.4 miles of stream would be managed to maintain existing riparian, fisheries and water quality in satisfactory condition. Management actions would be designed to complement the Willow Creek 208 Watershed Project.

7. About 3,200 acres of public land would be closed to ORV use and an additional 3,355 acres closed during winter and spring to protect wildlife and watershed values. About 6,485 acres would be designated and managed as semi-primitive non-motorized. One campground would be developed at Kepps Crossing.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9 - SNAKE RIVER

This management area contains 15,352 acres of public land along the South Fork and Henry's Fork of the Snake River. This is a complex area with demands from many resource uses. Recreation, wildlife, fisheries, water, and grazing are all uses which occur in the area.

Management Objectives

1. Multiple Use and Transfer Classes
   a. Classified as Moderate Use: No acres were classified as moderate use.
   b. Classified as Limited Use: 14,866 acres, all public lands within the Snake River corridor.
   c. Classified for Transfer: 486 acres classified for sale or exchange.

2. Maintain a public land base of 14,866 acres for long term management in federal ownership.

3. Manage 20,800 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral exploration and development in a manner consistent with recreation and wildlife uses.

4. Intensively manage 364 acres for timber production.

5. Manage 10,333 acres for livestock grazing in support of wildlife and recreation, improve livestock distribution along the river and improve range condition in the Kelly Canyon/Stinking Springs area from fair to good on 400 acres.

6. Maintain high quality riparian habitat, provide critical nesting and wintering areas for bald eagles, maintain high quality big game winter range and improve 10 percent or 70 acres of unsatisfactory big game habitat.

7. Manage the recreation values and uses of the area under a Special Recreation Management Area with a comprehensive management plan that recognizes other resource values and uses.

8. Manage one mile of Kelly Canyon to improve water quality from poor to good. Reduce man-caused erosion to not more than 2 1/2 tons/acre.

9. All of the management area would be handled as restricted fire suppression area. No heavy equipment and no fire retardant would be used. Fire control would be done in a manner to protect natural systems, erodable soils and scenic quality.

10. Manage cultural resources for sociocultural, management and potential scientific uses.

Required Management Actions

1. Land examinations would be needed for 486 acres for sale or exchange. Land examinations would be completed for feasible state or private exchanges as these opportunities arise.

2. Mineral management actions would be designed to complement important wildlife and recreation uses in this management area. About 10,400 acres would be closed to mining claim location where 4,300 acres are currently closed. No change in management of salable minerals would be needed. About 13,600 acres would remain available for material sales and 7,200 acres would remain closed to sales.

3. Timber sales could be designed on 364 acres using select cut methods. About 352 acres would be withdrawn from the commercial forest base for T&E species and other multiple uses. The 2,925 acres of cottonwood along the river would be withdrawn from timber management because of high values for T&E species, wildlife and recreation. Periodic monitoring would be needed to prevent unauthorized cutting of firewood.

4. Of the 48 allotments under Section 15 lease, 4 would require reductions in the level of grazing use. Most of the allotments are small, isolated parcels of less than 50 acres. About 400 acres of seeding are proposed, 2 springs, 1 mile of pipeline, and 10 miles of fence.

5. Wildlife habitat would be managed in accordance with the South Fork of the Snake River Memorandum of Understanding and the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. A management plan for the Snake River ACEC (see below) would be in accordance with these and would be implemented on completion. About 20 goose nesting platforms are proposed, 200 acres of bitterbrush seeding and 10 acres of aspen treatment.

6. One mile of Kelly Canyon would be managed to improve water quality and 1 mile managed to maintain existing satisfactory riparian habitat and water quality. The improvement would be through grazing management and reseeding of eroded areas. ORV use would be controlled to further improve water quality.

7. Man-caused soil erosion would be reduced to not more than 2 1/2 tons/acre/year through seeding, ORV management and grazing management.

8. About 1,191 acres would be managed for general ORV use while the balance of the area would be either closed to ORVs (6,020 acres) or restricted to existing roads and trails. About 8,320 acres of the area would be managed as semi-primitive non-motorized. A management plan for the Snake River Special Recreation Management Area would be developed to manage the recreation values and uses. If feasible, a management plan including both the Snake River SRMA and Snake River ACEC would be completed rather than separate plans for the same area. This plan would provide for management of all public land resources including cultural and historical values.

9. The Snake River Islands WSA totaling 770 acres would be managed under the Bureau's Interim Management Policy until Congress acts. If the recommendation for no wilderness designation is accepted by Congress, the islands would be managed in accordance with the Snake River SRMA plan and/or Snake River ACEC management plan.

10. Special designations for this management area include the following:
    a. North Menan Butte ACEC, 1,120 acres
    b. Snake River ACEC, 11,120 acres
    c. Snake River SRMA, 14,759 acres
    d. Menan Butte Research Natural Area
    e. Menan Butte National Natural Landmark, 1,120 acres (currently in effect)
    f. Cress Creek National Recreation Trail, 1 mile
    g. South Fork of the Snake River designated for further study as a recreation or scenic river, 61 miles

11. Cultural and historic resources and values would be managed under the ACEC management plan.

12. Fire suppression activities would be conducted using no fire retardant or heavy equipment unless management decides natural systems and values could be adequately protected.