

## Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

### Fishery Habitat

#### Objective:

**FISH 1:** Improve or maintain perennial stream/riparian areas to attain satisfactory conditions to support native fish.

**Rationale:** BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management Manual Section 6500 directs BLM to maintain the continued effectiveness of habitat improvements and to maintain and enhance important resident fisheries resources. BLM Manual Section 6840 directs BLM to ensure that the crucial habitats of sensitive animals will be managed and conserved to minimize the need for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) of 1977, as amended, requires the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations waters.

#### Monitoring:

- Monitoring includes collection of rangeland health assessment, utilization, trend, climate, water quality and fish habitat data by various methods. See Appendix MONT-1 for details concerning procedures.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. In pastures containing riparian areas categorized as unsatisfactory, non-functioning, or functional-at-risk, implement grazing practices that make progress towards achieving proper functioning condition and satisfactory riparian condition. These grazing practices will, at a minimum, comply with the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, and BMPs and component practices approved in the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan or subsequent plans. See Table RIPN-1 and Map RIPN-1 for affected areas. Future inventory or monitoring may indicate additional pastures to which this management action will apply.
2. Improve or maintain herbaceous vegetation species to attain composition, density, canopy and ground cover, and vigor appropriate for the site. Adequate residual stubble height in an amount appropriate for the site, will be present throughout the grazing treatment and overwinter. This pertains to those key sedge and rush forage species which are excellent streambank stabilizers.
3. Improve or maintain woody riparian vegetation species to attain composition, density, canopy and ground cover, structure, and vigor appropriate for the site. Woody riparian vegetation utilization levels will be established to promote species reflective of the site potential.
4. Improve or maintain streambank and channel stability appropriate for the site by managing grazing to limit annual trampling impacts to 10% or less of linear bank length.
5. Implement a juniper abatement plan for appropriate sites on which juniper is invading.
6. Implement management practices addressing non-grazing impacts to riparian areas where needed and appropriate.
7. Provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing following fires.



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### Objective:

**FISH 2:** Improve reservoir fisheries, when appropriate, in consultation with State agencies and adjacent landowners.

**Rationale:** BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management Manual Section 6500 directs BLM to maintain the continued effectiveness of habitat improvements and to maintain and enhance important resident fisheries resources. BLM Manual Section 6840 directs BLM to ensure that the crucial habitats of sensitive animals will be managed and conserved to minimize the need for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) of 1977, as amended, requires the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations water at a level of quality which provides protection for fish and wildlife.

### Monitoring:

- Monitoring includes collection of rangeland health assessment, utilization, trend, climate, water quality and fish habitat data by various methods. See Appendix MONT-1 for details concerning procedures.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. In pastures containing wetland areas categorized as unsatisfactory, non-functioning, or functional-at-risk, implement grazing practices that make progress towards achieving proper functioning condition and satisfactory riparian condition. These grazing practices will, at a minimum, comply with the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, and BMPs and component practices approved in the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan or subsequent plans. See Table RIPN-1 and Map RIPN-1 for affected areas. Future inventory or monitoring may indicate additional pastures to which this management action will apply.
2. Improve or maintain herbaceous vegetation species to attain composition, density, canopy and ground cover, and vigor appropriate for the site. Adequate residual stubble height in an amount appropriate for the site, will be present throughout the grazing treatment and overwinter. This pertains to those key sedge and rush forage species.
3. Improve or maintain woody riparian vegetation species to attain composition, density, canopy and ground cover, structure, and vigor appropriate for the site. Woody riparian vegetation utilization levels will be established to promote species reflective of the site potential.
4. Improve or maintain shoreline and soil surface stability appropriate for the site by managing grazing to limit annual trampling impacts to 10% or less of the linear shoreline length.
5. Implement a juniper abatement plan for appropriate sites on which juniper is invading.
6. Implement management practices addressing non-grazing impacts to riparian areas where needed and appropriate.
7. Provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing following fires.



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### Special Status Species

#### Objective:

**SPSS 1:** Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is no longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. See Tables SPSS-1 and SPSS-2.

**Rationale:** Protection and recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species is mandated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. BLM Manual 6840 also directs that BLM shall carry out management activities consistent with the principles of multiple-use while conserving proposed, candidate, BLM sensitive and State species of special concern and their habitat. It also directs BLM to ensure that any activities authorized, funded or carried out do not contribute to the need to federally list any species as threatened or endangered.

#### Monitoring:

- Conduct population or habitat monitoring on a regular basis for selected special status species of plants and animals.
- Monitor key populations and habitats or population/habitat objectives as identified in AMPs or other activity plans.
- Appropriate monitoring techniques for special status species may be identified in the wildlife section of Appendix MONT-1 or additional techniques may be required or utilized.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Prepare, revise, and implement Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) and other resource activity plans and cooperate in the development and implementation of Recovery Plans, Conservation Agreements and Strategies and species management plans to ensure that objectives for special status plant and animal species are incorporated and met.
2. Limit the adverse impacts of various land use activities, management actions and land tenure adjustments to special status plant and animal species populations and habitats through implementation of management actions identified in objectives FORS 2, WHRS 1, LVST 1, FIRE 1-4, LAND 1-6, LOCM 1, FLUM 1, MMAT 1, RECT 1 and HAZM 1. To limit adverse impacts, fencing of populations and their habitats will occasionally be required.
3. Protect and enhance habitat for a diversity of special status species through implementation of management actions identified in objectives SOIL 1 and 2, WATR 1 and 2, VEGE 1, RIPN 1, FORS 1 and 2, WDLF 1, FISH 1 and 2, RECT 3, WNES 1 and 2, HAZM 1 and ACEC 1.
4. Acquire additional high quality habitat for special status species through purchase or exchange with willing landowners.
5. Protect bald eagle winter habitat and populations through implementation of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Management Plan and restricting activities that would result in disturbance to wintering eagles or adversely impact roost trees, prey species or other habitat components.



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6. Enhance bald eagle winter habitat by planting additional roost trees where natural regeneration of suitable tree species is lacking.
7. Construct artificial nesting structures for ferruginous hawks and other special status species in areas where suitable nesting sites are determined to be limiting.
8. Maintain suitable grassland nesting habitat for long-billed curlew.
9. Identify, protect and enhance key sage grouse habitats and populations. Guidance for enhancement and protection is addressed in the Memorandum of Agreement in the 1997 Idaho Sage Grouse Management Plan (March 1998). Subsequent guidance may become available through development of plans by local sage grouse working groups or similar efforts.
10. Protect and enhance key Columbia spotted frog habitats and populations by implementing conservation actions identified in the Conservation Strategy for the Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*) in Idaho, pending its completion.
11. Limit recreational disturbance to bighorn sheep and other species associated with canyon and wetland/riparian habitats by not exceeding the interim carrying capacity objectives identified in the Owyhee River Recreation Management Plan.
12. Protect and enhance California bighorn sheep habitat and populations within the boundaries of Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area ACEC through continued implementation of the ACEC Management Plan.
13. Reduce the potential for disease transmission between domestic sheep and goats to California bighorn sheep by strict adherence to the 1998 Revised Guidelines for Domestic Sheep and Goat Management in Native Wild Sheep Habitats (BLM 1998) and all subsequent revisions.
14. Facilitate the reintroduction, expansion or supplemental transplant of special status species into suitable habitats where this is determined to be important to the recovery or management of a species or population.

### Wild Horse Management

#### Objective:

**WHRS 1:** Maintain wild and free-roaming horses in the Owyhee Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMAs) at appropriate management levels (AML) within a thriving natural ecological balance.

**Rationale:** The Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (PL 92-195) requires the BLM to manage wild free-roaming horses and burros under multiple-use in a manner that is designed to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance on public lands.



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### Monitoring:

- Monitoring of the vegetation includes collection of rangeland health assessment, actual use, utilization, trend, climate, and ecological site inventory data by various methods.
- Wild horse monitoring also includes collection of data concerning population characteristics. See Appendix MONT-1 for details concerning procedures.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Manage wild horses for the appropriate management level (AML) in the Hardtrigger, Black Mountain and Sands Basin Herd Management Areas (HMAs). See Map WHRS-1 and Table WHRS-1 for allotment specific details.

HMA	AML	Population Range
Hardtrigger	98	66 - 130
Black Mountain	45	30 - 60
Sands Basin	49	33 - 64
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>129 - 254</b>

2. Allocate forage for wild horses at the AML. See Table WHRS-2 for HMA specific details. AML may be adjusted and the forage allocation will correspond as determined by rangeland monitoring to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance.

HMA	Forage Allocation (AUMs)
Hardtrigger	1,176
Black Mountain	540
Sands Basin	588
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,304</b>

3. Protect wild free-roaming horses from illegal capture, branding, harassment, or death.
4. Manage wild free-roaming horses as a component of the public lands in a manner that maintains or improves the rangeland ecosystem.
5. Retain inactive status on a portion of the Hardtrigger Herd Area. See Table WHRS-1 for details.
6. Manage for recreational opportunities and experiences within the HMAs through coordination with affected parties and route designation, while protecting wild and free-roaming horses and their habitat.
7. Subject to multiple use management objectives, upgrade, modify, or remove rangeland developments that adversely impact distribution or free-roaming behavior of wild horses within HMAs.
8. Design new rangeland developments to minimize adverse impacts on wild horses.



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### Livestock Grazing Management

#### Objective:

**LVST 1:** Provide for a sustained level of livestock use compatible with meeting other resource objectives. Resolve issues associated with livestock grazing identified in the allotment management summary. See Appendix LVST-1 in the Proposed Owyhee Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (July 1999).

**Rationale:** The Taylor Grazing Act directs stabilization of the livestock industry dependent upon public lands. It also directs that action be taken to stop injury to public grazing lands and provide for orderly use. The Federal Land Policy Management Act 1976 - Section 201(1) mandates that public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of the ecological resources. The Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 directs that the condition of the public rangelands be improved so that they become as productive as feasible for wildlife habitat and other rangeland values. The BLM is committed to maintaining and enhancing vegetation in terms of diversity and abundance of species and diversity of plant communities. The Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management are to be used as management goals and management techniques for the betterment of the environment, protection of cultural resources, and sustained productivity of the range.

#### Monitoring:

- Monitoring includes collection of ecological site inventory, rangeland health assessment, utilization, trend, actual use, climate, and other data by various methods.
- Monitoring also includes use supervision and compliance checks. See Appendix MONT-1 for details concerning procedures.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Allocate 135,116 AUMs for livestock, 2,304 AUMs for wild horses, and 2,673 AUMs for wildlife as shown in Table LVST-1 and Table WHRS-2. See Appendix LVST-1 in the Proposed Owyhee Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (July 1999) for wildlife AUM allocations and other information. The livestock allocation is the current active permitted use for livestock in the Owyhee Resource Area. In order to meet resource objectives, the forage allocation will be adjusted based upon monitoring and assessment. Evaluation of monitoring data will determine future stocking levels. Stocking levels necessary to meet objectives are projected to be approximately 112,649 AUMs in 5 years and approximately 105,899 AUMs in 20 years. The average actual grazing use has been 96,676 AUMs from 1988-1997.
2. Prioritize allotments from their current management classifications of intensive management, less intensive management, and management in association with private lands to an allotment categorization based upon resource conditions, resource potentials, resource concerns, economics, present management and other criteria. These criteria are used to place the allotments into three categories; improve (I), maintain (M), and custodial (C). Due to the large number of allotments categorized as improve, the improve category allotments are further prioritized as High, Medium and Low. See Table LVST-1 and Map LVST-1.



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3. Develop and implement grazing systems to meet multiple use resource objectives and/or the Standards for Rangeland Health (see 43 CFR subpart 4180 and Appendix LVST-1) as follows: within 5 years on all I category high priority allotments; within 8 years on all I category medium priority allotments; and within 10 years on all other allotments. See Table LVST-1 and Map LVST-1. In those allotments not meeting multiple use resource management objectives and lacking an approved and implemented grazing system by the above listed time frames, livestock grazing use will be authorized under the following stipulations:
  - Riparian vegetation found along those stream segments currently listed in Table RIPN-1, will retain a 6-inch minimum stubble height on riparian herbaceous vegetation at the end of the grazing period. The incidence of use on woody vegetation (willow, alder, etc.) will not exceed 25% on those plants generally less than 3 feet in height in any given year. See Table RIPN-1 and Map RIPN-1 for affected areas. Future inventory or monitoring may identify additional stream segments to which these management actions will apply.
  - On upland range sites grazed in excess of 50% utilization as determined by the key forage plant utilization class method, livestock grazing will be adjusted to ensure grazing does not cause an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization.
  - On salt desert shrub range sites below 3,500' in elevation, livestock grazing will be adjusted so that grazing will not occur during the critical growing season more often than one in three years. When these sites are grazed during the critical growing season, utilization will not exceed the light utilization class as determined by the key forage plant method.
4. Limit upland forage utilization by livestock on key upland herbaceous forage species to 50 percent unless a higher or lower level of use is appropriate to meet standards for healthy rangelands. Examples include heavier use levels of crested wheatgrass when grazed other than during the critical growth stage or light use (31-40 percent) on Idaho fescue, Thurber's needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass or other key forage species when grazed during the critical growth stage every or nearly every year.
5. In pastures containing riparian areas categorized as unsatisfactory, nonfunctioning or functional-at-risk, implement grazing practices that make progress towards achieving proper functioning condition and satisfactory riparian condition. These grazing practices will, at a minimum, comply with the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (see 43 CFR 4180) and BMPs and component grazing practices approved in the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan or subsequent plans. See Table RIPN-1 and Map RIPN-1. Future inventory or monitoring may indicate additional pastures to which this management action will apply.
6. Use a minimal level of rangeland developments (e.g., fences, water facilities) to adjust livestock grazing practices to achieve multiple use resource objectives and meet standards for rangeland health.
7. Prescribed burning practices will be used in areas where it is determined that burning would improve rangeland health and increase biodiversity in big sagebrush and western juniper vegetation communities. Livestock grazing will be adjusted to ensure successful prescribed burns. Areas prescribed to be burned may require rest prior to burning and will require rest after burning for a minimum of two (2) growing seasons. Mechanical and chemical methods may also be used but in very limited areas where burning is not an option due to limited fuels or safety.



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8. Exclude livestock grazing from 22,227 acres. Areas excluded from grazing are shown on Map LVST-2.
9. Conversion in class of livestock from cattle or horses to domestic sheep will be prohibited in the following locations: all areas south of the road known as the Mud Flat Road south to the border with the State of Nevada; within nine miles of the Castle Creek bighorn sheep herd; and within nine miles of the Reynolds Creek bighorn sheep herd. See Map WDLF-2 for current approximate locations of the Castle Creek and Reynolds Creek herds.
10. Applications from livestock permittees for non-use for conservation and protection purposes will be an acceptable practice and may be granted by the authorized officer where it is determined that such action will aid in meeting the standards for rangeland health.
11. Applications for use in excess of permitted use for temporary nonrenewable grazing use will be an acceptable practice and may be granted by the authorized officer where it is determined that such action will aid in meeting the standards for rangeland health.
12. Allotment boundaries may be adjusted or allotments may be combined to facilitate administration and/or meet resource objectives.
13. If the opportunity presents itself as a result of current active permitted use being either relinquished or lost for any reason then the available carrying capacity may be utilized to resolve grazing issues anywhere within the resource area. Livestock could be transferred either temporarily or permanently in order to meet resource objectives.

### Fire Management

#### Objective:

**FIRE 1:** Suppress wildfires by taking appropriate management response utilizing the range of acceptable acreage limits listed for each fire management zone (FMZ) within the resource area. The current Fire Management Plan (FMP) is reviewed periodically and may be revised in conformance with RMP. See Map FIRE-1.

- FMZ 1.3: (BOP West) less than 200 acres at least 90% of the time (annual grasses).  
FMZ 2.7: (Jordan Valley) less than 500 acres at least 90% of the time (perennial grasses; the west side of the Owyhee Resource Area, south to Jordan Valley).  
FMZ 2.8: (Salt Desert) less than 200 acres at least 90% of the time (perennial grasses; the foothills north to near the Snake River).  
FMZ 3.1: (South Mountain) less than 1,000 acres at least 90% of the time (woodlands; south of Triangle - Jordan Valley road).  
FMZ 3.2: (Silver City) less than 500 acres at least 90% of the time (woodlands; north of the Triangle - Jordan Valley road).  
FMZ 3.3: (Wilderness Study Areas) less than 1,000 acres at least 90% of the time (all WSA's within the Owyhee Resource Area).  
FMZ 4.1: (Canyonlands) less than 500 acres at least 75% of the time.



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**Rationale:** The BLM feels that wildfires must have appropriate action taken, using the Fire Management Plan (FMP) and the identified value-at-risk. FMP objectives and value-at-risk are predetermined. Wildfires are evaluated for resource damage, suppression cost plus “net resource value change”, and management objectives.

**Monitoring:**

- Fire occurrence reports, annually, with percentage of wildfires for each FMZ.
- Fire occurrence reports and individual Fire Report for each wildfire annually.
- Annually review fire occurrence report, with the LSRD FMP.

**Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Provide appropriate management response, considering resource values, fire-fighter safety, costs, allowing natural fire to burn to meet resource objectives, in closely monitored opportunities, on all natural and human caused fires to meet suppression standards established. When prescriptive criteria are developed fires may be managed to meet resource objectives.

**Objective:**

**FIRE 2:** Decrease soil erosion and sediment yield, restore forage values, and restore upland habitat values and riparian values using fire rehabilitation procedures following a wildfire.

**Rationale:** The Emergency Fire Rehabilitation (EFR) program calls to mitigate in the most cost-effective and expeditious manner possible, the adverse effects of fire on the vegetation-soil complex, the loss of water control and deterioration of water quality, and the detrimental alteration of crucial wildlife habitats.

**Monitoring:**

- BLM Technical Reference 4400-1, Planning for Monitoring, April 1984, contains applicable guidance for planning monitoring studies associated with emergency rehabilitation treatments.
- At least three growing seasons after treatments are needed for monitoring and evaluations. See Appendix MONT-1 for various upland vegetation monitoring methods.

**Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Waterbar and seed all firelines constructed on slopes of 25% or more to prevent erosion.
2. Backfill and reseed all firelines constructed by heavy equipment.
3. Apply rehabilitation seed mixtures to meet watershed, wildlife and riparian objectives.
4. Rest all rehabilitated areas, with the exception of firelines, from livestock grazing for at least two growing seasons.
5. Use rehabilitation techniques in WSAs that are least damaging to wilderness resources, following the guidelines of the Boise District Wilderness Interim Management Plan, updated 1987, and including:
  - Use staggered or irregular seedings in WSAs to blend with the landscape.
  - Hand or aerial native seed species to restore natural vegetation.
  - Conduct watershed reclamation work to prevent soil erosion and to avoid wilderness values.



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### **Objective:**

**FIRE 3:** Restore natural disturbance regime to improve rangeland health and the biodiversity of native plant communities, using the example for a Prescribed Fire Activity Plan, and the example for a Wilderness Fire Activity Plan.

**Rationale:** Western juniper distribution in the Owyhee Mountains has nearly doubled since 1860. This expansion continues into areas not previously thought to be dominated by juniper such as into sites dominated by deep loamy soils. The increased density of western juniper has and continues to eliminate desirable understory vegetation. Also, there are areas with continual fuels of big sagebrush and western juniper that when ignited under the right conditions, will result in large catastrophic fires resulting in significant loss of wildlife and watershed values. Fire needs to be managed within these areas. Fire should be introduced at times where there is a better likelihood of control and the size of the burn acreage can be limited.

### **Monitoring:**

- Annually review fire occurrences report, with the LSRD FMP. BLM Technical Reference 4400-1, Planning for Monitoring, April 1984, contains applicable guidelines for planning monitoring studies. See Appendix MONT-1 for various upland vegetation monitoring methods.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Use natural and prescribed fire in big sagebrush and western juniper dominated vegetation communities to burn approximately 105,000 acres. No more than 15,000 acres would be prescribed burned in any given year. The target or goal would be 7,500 acres per year.

### **Objective:**

**FIRE 4:** Ensure that BLM controlled management actions do not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards by airshed as established in the Clean Air Act and administered by guidelines in the State Implementation Plan (SIP), when in place, and the EPA's "Prescribed Burning Background Document and Technical Information Document for Prescribed Burning Best Available Control Measures" or EPA's Smoke Management BMP.

**Rationale:** Smoke management is one element (both prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and total suspended particulates (TSP)) of several elements in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, established in the Clean Air Act (1967) and amendments to the Act (1972,1977).

### **Monitoring:**

- Smoke management monitoring will occur under the requirements and guidelines for air quality and smoke management being developed by the State of Idaho.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Manage smoke from prescribed fire through techniques of avoidance, dilution and emission reduction with the use of EPA's Smoke Management BMP.



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### Objective:

**FIRE 5:** Modify standard suppression techniques to protect sensitive resource values.

**Rationale:** ACECs, WSAs and other sensitive areas contain important resource values. Some resource values could be damaged or destroyed by fire or fire suppression techniques, such as destroying an historical structure in the Silver City area or using a bulldozer to blade over the Oregon Trail. Standard suppression techniques need to be modified to protect these sensitive resource values.

### Monitoring:

- Annual fire occurrence reports.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Restrict the use of heavy equipment in fireline construction in WSAs, some ACECs, riparian habitat areas, the Silver City and DeLamar Historic Districts and the Oregon Trail National Historic Trail. See Table ACEC-1, Map WNES-1, Map CULT-1, and Map ACEC-1.
2. Use any and all available fire suppression techniques to protect the Silver City area, cultural ACECs and unique wildlife habitat areas.

## Lands

### Objective:

**LAND 1:** Acquire through exchange, purchase, easement or donation and maintain those lands which have high resource values and to improve the management and administration of the public lands. Lands with high resource values will be retained in federal ownership which provides for efficient and effective management and administration.

**Rationale:** Section 102 of FLPMA makes it the policy of the United States that the public lands be retained in Federal ownership. Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA provide mechanisms for consolidating land ownership patterns through acquisitions and exchanges. Consolidated ownership patterns would provide for better land management and administration for both public and non-public landowners. Retention and acquisition of lands in public ownership containing significant resource values would provide for long-term protection and management of those values. Disposal of isolated, unmanageable tracts would provide more efficient use of lands better suited in non-public ownership and concentrate management efforts in significant blocks of public lands.

### Monitoring:

- Established Annual Work Plan (AWP) reporting procedures.
- Review access needs on a regular and periodic basis.
- Normal BLM accomplishment tracking process.
- Apply existing resource monitoring procedures on adjacent or comparable lands to newly acquired lands.



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### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Acquire through purchase, exchange, easement or donation lands that will benefit the management of resource programs including but not limited to wild horses, wildlife, WSA's, ACEC's, riparian, cultural, recreation, etc.
2. Manage newly acquired lands for the highest potential purpose for which they were acquired. Manage acquired lands with unique or fragile resources to protect those resources. Manage acquired lands without special values or management goals in the same manner as comparable or adjacent public lands.

### Objective:

**LAND 2:** Make available for disposal approximately 325,000 acres of public land by sale, exchange, or Recreation & Public Purposes Act during the life of the plan. Retain in federal ownership those lands not identified for disposal.

**Rationale:** FLPMA 203, 206, 212. Disposal of those lands that are difficult and uneconomic to manage or that would serve important public objectives including community expansion and economic development which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land.

### Monitoring:

- Normal BLM accomplishment tracking processes.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Consolidate public lands by land tenure adjustment to acquire lands having higher public values and disposing of lands having lower public values by the various authorities available. See Table LAND-1 and Map LAND-2.

Zone 1. Retain lands in public ownership in Zone 1. Lands in Zone 1 have high resource values including but not limited to; Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, ACEC's, Wild Horse Herd Management Areas, crucial wildlife habitat or recreational values. Land in this zone will be considered for R&PP actions on a site-by-site specific basis.

Zone 2. Retain lands in public ownership in Zone 2 except for voluntary exchanges to resolve land use conflicts within this zone. Zone 2 coincides with the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area boundary. Public Law 103-64, passed by Congress and signed into law August 4, 1993, established the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. This law withdrew all federal lands within the conservation area from all forms of entry, appropriation, application, selection and disposal except for voluntary land exchanges which would resolve ownership related land use conflicts within the conservation area. Disposals may be conducted when such action will either benefit or have no adverse effect on raptors, raptor prey or their habitat. See Map NCA-1.



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Zone 3. Make lands in Zone 3 available for all forms of disposal except FLPMA sale, Desert Land Act or Carey Act. Lands in Zone 3 do not meet the sale criteria under FLPMA Section 203 and 43 CFR 2710.0-3(a)(3). Using current existing laws and regulations, and procedures, detailed analysis will be conducted on a case by case basis before decisions are made to dispose of Zone 3 lands from public ownership.

Zone 4. Make lands available for disposal in Zone 4. Lands designated for disposal that meet the sale criteria under Section 203 of FLPMA, 43 CFR 2710.0-3(a)(3), and other management objectives are designated as Zone 4. These lands meet the criteria for disposal by sale, but may also be disposed of by any other authority available to BLM for transfer of title out of public ownership, except the Desert Land Act and the Carey Act. See Table LAND-1 and Map LAND-2. Using current existing laws and regulations, and procedures, detailed analysis will be conducted on a case by case basis before decisions are made to dispose of Zone 4 lands from public ownership. Although these lands meet Section 203 criteria, it will be management's decision as to which disposal authority will ultimately be used.

2. Public lands currently under Desert Land Entry (DLE) application or entry that are relinquished or rejected will not be made available for further application for agricultural purposes. No public lands will be made available for disposal under the Desert Land Act and the Carey Act.

### **Objective:**

**LAND 3:** Authorize and manage the use of public lands for rights-of-way, right-of-way reservations, easements, permits, leases, licenses, agreements, etc., except for those areas identified as exclusion areas.

Applications for use of the public lands will be evaluated on a case by case basis using current existing laws, regulations, and procedures.

**Rationale:** FLPMA 212, 302, 307, 501, 507, 43 CFR 2800 and 2920. Allowing for use of the public lands by providing continuity for use authorizations.

### **Monitoring:**

- Normal BLM accomplishment tracking process.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Authorize future authorizations that are compatible with existing uses except within those areas that are identified as exclusion areas. Authorize use within avoidance areas only when alternatives are not available or acceptable and resource impacts can be mitigated.
2. Manage certain areas as use authorization avoidance or exclusion areas. See Table ACEC-1, WNES-1, and Map LAND-3.
3. Prohibit the following activities on public lands:
  - New public waste disposal sites.
  - New or existing private waste disposal sites.
  - Storage or disposal of hazardous waste.



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4. Process applications for rights-of-way, permits, leases, and other realty actions in a timely manner on a site-specific basis utilizing the NEPA process as well as current existing laws and regulations.

### **Objective:**

**LAND 4:** Acquire, where needed, public and/or administrative access to public land consistent with resource values and to ensure more efficient administration of the public lands.

**Rationale:** Due to the generally fragmented nature of public lands in some parts of the resource area, several critical access points, crossing private lands, lack legal access. Legal access is needed in these areas to ensure continued effective administrative and public use of these lands. This need becomes more acute as public use of these lands increases, and as land owners become more aware of the value of public and private land for recreation and other purposes. Land tenure adjustment actions (exchanges or fee purchases) can be a valuable tool for access acquisitions. However, without careful review, lands actions, particularly exchanges, can result in lost access. Other tools can also be utilized, such as constructing new roads around lands where access is restricted and the cost of acquisition would exceed the cost of construction or where such acquisition is not feasible.

### **Monitoring:**

- Normal BLM tracking process.
- Review access needs on a regular basis.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Acquire public or administrative access where public demand or an administrative need exists. Place emphasis on providing access to areas containing high resource or recreational values. See Map LAND-4 for some identified access needs.
2. Ensure that public access is secured or acquired through all land tenure adjustment transactions.
3. Construct new roads around private lands where easement acquisition is not feasible but significant access needs have been identified.
4. Use the right-of-way regulations to acquire reciprocal rights-of-way for administrative access across private lands when appropriate.
5. Use the Cooperative Right-of-Way Agreement between the BLM and the State of Idaho to acquire access across state lands as needed.

### **Objective:**

**LAND 5:** Identify and abate unauthorized use of public lands.

**Rationale:** FLPMA 102, 303, 43 CFR 9230. The abatement of unauthorized uses protects resource values on the public lands and prevents loss of revenue due the United States.



## Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

### **Monitoring:**

- Monitoring will include regular surveillance of lands and resources where a high probability of unauthorized use exists, as well as follow-up on information concerning possible trespass provided by the staff and by the public.
- Normal BLM accomplishment process will be utilized to track implementation of this decision.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Detect, confirm and abate, either by authorization or termination, all unauthorized use on public land.

### **Objective:**

**LAND 6:** Withdraw certain public land for protection from degradation and protection of identified resource values.

**Rationale:** Section 204 of FLPMA gives the Secretary the authority to make, modify, extend or revoke withdrawals and mandates review of withdrawals. Bureau Manual 2300 provides guidance. The placement of withdrawals on designated parcels of the public lands segregates them from certain uses to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of a resource.

### **Monitoring:**

- Normal BLM tracking process.
- Review withdrawals on a regular basis.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. To protect high or sensitive resource values, withdraw those lands identified in Tables LOCM-1, and LAND-2 from disposal location, or entry (specific resource values noted in the tables).  
New withdrawal proposals will be addressed on a case by case basis in accordance with FLPMA Section 204, current existing laws and regulations, and with full public participation.

### **Objective:**

**LAND 7:** Provide management prescriptions on those lands that have been returned to BLM management through revocation of withdrawals.

**Rationale:** FLPMA 204. Bureau Manual 2355 and the Annual Work Plan (AWP) process provides guidance. Lands currently under the jurisdiction of other agencies or lands currently withdrawn for a specific use need a management prescription when that existing withdrawal is revoked.

### **Monitoring:**

- Normal BLM tracking process.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Manage lands that have been returned to BLM management through revocation of withdrawals in the same manner as adjacent lands. If returned lands have a significant resource, recreation, wildlife or cultural value, manage those lands for continued protection and enhancement of the value identified.

