

CHAPTER 2
ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Both the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and the BLM resource management planning regulations require the formulation of a range of alternatives. Each alternative must be a complete and reasonable plan to guide future management of public land and resources. One alternative must represent no action (Alternative A), which in this case is a continuation of present levels or systems of resource use. The other alternatives provide a range of choices from those favoring resource production to those favoring resource protection.

The preferred alternative (Alternative B) is the same as the Proposed Management Prescription described in Part I. The one exception is the Range Management Program, for which the proposed action is Alternative A.

The alternatives were formulated specifically to respond to the planning issues identified at the beginning of the planning process (see Part I, Resource Management Plan, for a listing of the planning issues).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

One alternative was considered by the RMP Core Team but was not developed or analyzed in detail because it did not meet the criteria for selection. This alternative and the reasons for its elimination are presented below.

No Livestock Grazing

This alternative would have excluded all livestock grazing on public lands in the PRA. It was eliminated for the following reasons:

1. Resource conditions, including range, vegetation, watershed, and wildlife habitat, do not warrant prohibition of livestock grazing resource areawide. However, elimination of livestock grazing was considered on selected allotments and in riparian areas under other alternatives.
2. Total elimination of grazing would be in direct conflict with existing laws and regulations.
3. The cost of removing range improvement projects not benefiting other programs would be prohibitive.
4. The enforcement of no livestock grazing on the fragmented pattern of public lands in the PRA would be difficult at best and very expensive.

5. Public comments received during the issue identification and criteria development steps indicate a general acceptance of livestock grazing on public land, provided that such grazing is properly managed.
6. It is estimated that permittees using BLM lands generate \$1.1 million in annual income in the PRA and 143 jobs. Given this economic significance and the general social acceptance of livestock grazing, people in the PRA and the State of Idaho would not support a no grazing alternative.

The No Livestock Grazing Alternative was considered to be unreasonable and unrealistic.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

ALTERNATIVE A

Goal

The "No Action" alternative would continue present management. Present levels of management would be continued, with measures being taken to prevent or correct deteriorating conditions. Any changes in management would be brought about through monitoring and the environmental assessment process. Land transfer actions would apply only to those lands where no conflicts occurred and where transfer would be of benefit to the Federal government and in the best public interest. Management actions would be guided by the Pocatello and Caribou/Bear Lake Management Framework Plans. As defined by BLM policy, Alternative A is the proposed action for livestock grazing.

Minerals Management

Non-energy mineral leasing would be permitted on 604,064 acres with standard stipulations. A total of 38,895 acres would be closed to solid mineral leasing.

Under Alternative A, the BLM would manage 648,901 acres (5,942 acres of this total are managed for oil and gas only) of Federal mineral estate in a manner that would allow exploration and development while minimizing unnecessary impacts to other resources. To accomplish this, a total of 329,687 acres would be open for oil and gas and geothermal leasing with seasonal and standard stipulations; another 24,821 acres would be open with No-Surface-Occupancy (NSO) restrictions. Approximately 38,895 acres of land would be closed to oil and gas and geothermal leasing.

A total of 330,250 acres would be available for the location of mining claims and managed under the surface management regulations (43 CFR 3802/3809). A total of 57,211 acres would be closed to mineral entry. Mineral material disposal would be allowed on 318,857 acres of the PRA. A total of 68,604 acres would be closed to mineral material disposal.

Lands

Under Alternative A, BLM would consider 22,229 acres for disposal from Federal ownership through public sales, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, or exchanges. (See Map 2.)

A total of 242,252 acres of public land would be retained. Land acquisitions would occur through exchanges with private landowners and the State of Idaho. BLM would attempt to acquire 994 acres of private land and 2,560 acres of State land.

A total of 403 acres of public land would be retained and used under existing land use permits/leases.

Right-of-Way development could occur with standard stipulations on 228,322 acres. Approximately 24,821 acres would have special restrictions (refer to Table 4.1, NSO). A total of 11,338 acres would be closed to right-of-way development in accordance with Wilderness Study Area Interim Management Policy.

Range Management

The PRA would be managed to maintain existing livestock use. The 5-year average use of 24,061 animal unit months (AUMs) is proposed even though active preference is 29,151 AUMs.

Approximately 6,792 acres of vegetation in a downward trend would be reversed in trend. The long-term stocking level would be 24,361 AUMs. Adjustments to the active preference will be made on sixteen allotments identified in the Bannock/Oneida Range Program Summary, after the required studies have been made. The Inkom, Bancroft and Rich allotments are currently under intensive management. Each has a grazing formula and will continue to be managed in this manner.

The current level of monitoring would continue. Adjustments to proposed stocking rates will be made by future monitoring on each allotment. Range improvements would consist of 20 water facilities, 8 miles of fence and 100 acres of vegetation rehabilitation.

Wildlife Management

Approximately 84,107 acres of public land would provide winter range for 6,748 deer and 516 elk.

Project activity would be limited to improvements needed to maintain existing habitat or habitat access. Approximately 4 miles of fencing in areas of big game winter range would be modified to facilitate big game movement. Two 500-gallon water catchments would be constructed. Four goose nest platforms and a 40-acre bitterbrush planting would also occur.

Seasonal restrictions for wildlife protection on oil and gas and geothermal leasing exploration and development would continue on 101,986 acres.

Snowmobile closures to protect wintering elk and deer for 22,344 acres would remain in effect.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Nine developed recreation sites not currently withdrawn would remain open to mineral entry. Additional recreation sites would not be developed.

ORV use would continue under present designations on about 92,000 acres within the Resource Area. A total of 25,869 acres of the designated 92,000 acres would be open to wheeled ORV use and 36,646 acres would be open to over-snow ORV use. BLM would continue to limit snowmobile use during winter months on 33,011 acres on big game winter range and to limit use to existing roads and trails for wheeled vehicles on 65,811 acres. A total of 320 acres would be closed to all vehicles and 22,344 acres would be closed to snowmobiles. The remaining 172,481 acres in the Resource Area would remain open.

Visual Resource Management Classes would be applied through standard operating procedures on the following acreages: Class I, 11,338 acres; Class II, 99,055 acres; Class III, 141,266 acres; and Class IV, 12,822 acres.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Under Alternative A, no ACEC designations would be made.

Research Natural Areas (RNA)

Under Alternative A, RNA designations would not be made.

Cultural Resources Management

NSO restrictions would be imposed on 5 acres of Historic Railroad Grades, 10 acres in Blackrock Canyon and 40 acres of Historic Trail Segments.

Forest Management

Under Alternative A, approximately 12,659 acres of commercial forest land would be available for selective and shelterwood cutting. An additional 808 acres of predominately lodgepole pine would be available for timber harvest under a clearcut cutting system.

Approximately 28,210 acres of woodland would be available for the production of woodland products: firewood, posts/poles, and Christmas trees.

Until a decision is made on the Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek Wilderness Study Areas, 2,559 acres of commercial forest land of predominately Douglas-fir would be placed in a deferred category. An additional 5,069 acres of woodland would also be placed in a deferred category for the same reason.

There would be 1,279 acres withdrawn from the timber base as a result of the Timber Productivity Capability Classification Inventory conducted in the District in 1984. This acreage was withdrawn because of low productivity, unstable slopes and/or problem with regeneration.

Riparian and Water Quality (Refer To Appendix C)

Under Alternative A, 3.15 miles of riparian habitat would be managed for improvement. BLM would maintain 87.97 miles of stream and riparian habitat in their present good to fair condition. Under this Alternative, 7.87 miles of stream and adjoining riparian habitat would be sold or exchanged from Federal ownership. There would be 2.75 miles of riparian habitat which would continue in a downward trend in "Maintain" or "Custodial" grazing allotments. Riparian pastures would be created through construction of 6.75 miles of fencing and utilization of key riparian vegetative species would be limited to 50 percent.

Soils and Watershed Management

Erosion monitoring would occur on 20 allotments (refer to Appendix H) to determine how much actual erosion is occurring. Approximately 867 acres of agricultural trespass lands would be restored to native range. The current unallotted 948 acres in Oneida Narrows would continue to be closed to livestock grazing and 52 acres of disturbed lands reclaimed on Woodall Mountain and Trail Creek.

Fire Management

Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 264,481 acres. All developed recreation sites and potential development sites would be under suppression restrictions, i.e. no retardant, no heavy equipment, and no fireline explosives. No prescribed burning would occur under this Alternative.

Access

Under Alternative A, public access to approximately 21,400 acres, as identified in the two MFP documents, would be obtained. (Refer to Caribou/Bear Lake MFP: Recreation , R-9.1, Access, ART 1.1, and Pocatello MFP: Recreation, R-4.1, Wildlife, W/L 15.3.)

ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Goal

This Alternative represents a mix of resource uses that takes a balanced approach to public land management. Production and use of commodity resources and commercial use authorizations would occur, but fragile resources, wildlife habitat, cultural values, and other nonconsumptive resource uses would be protected. It would require funding at approximately the present level.

Minerals Management

Non-energy solid mineral leasing would be permitted on 598,581 acres under standard stipulations. A total of 44,378 acres would be closed to solid mineral leasing.

Under Alternative B, a total of 324,009 acres would be open for oil and gas and geothermal leasing with seasonal and standard stipulations; another 30,499 acres would be open with NSO restrictions. A total of 38,895 acres would be closed to oil and gas and geothermal leasing.

A total of 330,250 acres would be open for the location of mining claims and managed under the surface management regulations (43 CFR 3802/3809). A total of 57,211 acres would be closed to mineral entry.

Mineral material disposals would be permitted on 311,793 acres of the PRA. Approximately, 75,668 acres would be closed to mineral material disposals.

Lands

Under Alternative B, 17,068 acres of public land would be available for disposal from Federal ownership through public sales, R&PP or exchanges. Included in this total are 8,124 acres that would be transferred solely through exchange. (See Map 3.)

A total of 247,413 acres of public land would be retained. BLM would attempt to acquire 9,687 acres of private land and 9,880 acres of State land through exchange for public land.

A total of 403 acres of public land would be retained and used under existing land use permits/leases.

Right-of-Way development with standard stipulations would occur on 191,561 acres. Special restrictions would be imposed on 42,251 acres. A total of 30,669 acres would be closed to right-of-way development.

Range Management

Under Alternative B, 11,240 acres of midseral and early seral condition range would change to late seral condition. Approximately 2,544 acres of vegetation in a downward trend would be reversed.

Proposed improvements include 11,240 acres of brush control, 240 acres of seeding, 32 springs, 12 water catchments, 10 reservoirs, 2 cattleguards, 10 miles of fence, and 15,000 acres of disturbed rangeland restored for a current estimated total cost of \$210,245.

In both the short and long-term, adjustments to the active preference (upward/downward) would be made based on the results from approved range monitoring procedures, numbers of acres/AUMs, general observations, and professional judgment. For the PRA as a whole, the initial stocking level of 29,969 AUMs would be a 20 percent increase above the current 5-year average actual use and a 3 percent increase above the current active preference. The long-term stocking level would be 34,276 AUMs.

Grazing adjustments would be made over the 15-year life of the plan. These would occur only after conducting monitoring studies and coordinating with the affected users.

Livestock grazing would be excluded from 1,810 acres of fenced campgrounds, riparian areas, one ACEC, and four RNAs. The grazing preference on 14 allotments would be reduced by 125 AUMs because of these exclusions (Refer to Appendix A, Table A.7).

Adjusted turnout dates and/or season of use may be used to improve range condition, improve vigor of perennial vegetation, and implement reductions needed to achieve management goals.

To implement this Alternative, Allotment Management Plans (AMP)/grazing systems would have to be developed for 114 allotments in the "Improve" category.

Wildlife Management

The following table shows the eight Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) that would be developed under this Alternative:

TABLE 2.1
PROPOSED HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Species	Area	Acreage
Elk	Garden Gap	4,363
Waterfowl/Fisheries	Oxford Slough	157
Elk/Deer	Oneida Narrows	5,085
Elk/Deer	Cheatbeck Canyon	4,477
Deer/Sage Grouse	East of Bear Lake	15,410
Elk/Deer	Wolverine Canyon	7,770
Deer/Sharp-tailed Grouse	King Creek	5,210
Deer	Downey Front	3,487

Approximately 4,131 acres of big game winter/spring range, about 3,215 acres of sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse seasonal ranges, and about 102 acres of nongame habitat would be improved. This would occur through coordinated AMP and HMP development with goals for improving ecological range condition from fair to good. Bitterbrush plantings would be made in areas where present condition is declining.

Under this Alternative, estimated populations of 7,105 deer and 543 elk would be supported on winter ranges on public lands.

Forage quality and quantity for waterfowl would be improved on about 50 acres of riparian habitat through improved grazing management. In addition, six goose nesting platforms are proposed at various locations along the Bear River.

Two 500-gallon guzzlers for sage grouse and nongame species would be installed on the Bear Lake Plateau. Livestock exclosures would be built around the guzzlers. The ease of big game movement and hazard reduction would be improved through modification of about 6 miles of existing fence. Approximately 417 acres would be planted with bitterbrush seed.

The integrity and availability of 30,499 acres of crucial habitat of raptors, waterfowl, elk, etc. would be improved through adoption of NSO restrictions on oil, gas, and geothermal leasing, exploration and development. Availability of an additional 130,000 acres of habitat would be assured through seasonal restrictions on this activity.

ORV restrictions limiting ORV use to designated routes of travel would be applied to public lands in the Schmidt Ridge, Fish Haven, Merkley Mountain, Sheep Creek Hills, Oneida Narrows, Thatcher, Beaver Basin, Coop Creek, Sulfur Canyon, Soda Hills, Sage Valley, Diamond Creek, and Goshen areas. The winter ranges north of Glendale Reservoir and near Bischoff Canyon would be closed to snowmobiles.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Alternative B would continue with present ORV designations contained in the Pocatello ORV Designation Plan (08/15/80) and new designations added in the Caribou-Bear Lakes areas (refer to Map 16). ORV user designations in the Pocatello and Blackfoot River Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be determined by future activity plans. These SRMAs would total 64,532 acres.

This Alternative would designate 75,115 acres open to wheeled ORVs and 143,931 acres open to over-snow ORV use. Limited ORV use designations would be placed on 185,829 acres for wheeled travel and 93,673 acres for over-snow use. A total of 3,537 acres would be closed to all vehicles.

Eight new recreation sites would be developed under this Alternative (refer to Map 16).

The following visual resources management designations would be made: Class I, 11,338 acres; Class II, 99,055 acres; Class III, 141,266 acres; and Class IV, 12,822 acres.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Under Alternatives B, the Stump Creek, Downey Watershed and Travertine Park ACECs would be designated totaling 4,506 acres of public land. (See Appendix B and Map 16.) The three ACECs would be protected by restrictions on mining, grazing, and ORVs.

Research Natural Areas (RNA)

Under Alternatives B, RNA designations would be made for seven areas, totaling 1,494 acres. These seven areas are: Cheatbeck Canyon, Dairy Hollow, Formation Cave, Oneida Narrows, Pine Gap, Robbers Roost Creek, and Travertine Park. (See Map 16.) The seven RNAs would be protected by restrictions on mining, grazing, and ORVs.

Cultural Resources Management

NSO restrictions would be imposed on 10 acres of Historic Railroad Grades, 40 acres in Blackrock Canyon, and 2,000 acres of Historic Trail Segments.

Forest Management

Under Alternative B, approximately 12,447 acres of commercial forest land would be available for selective and shelterwood cutting. An additional 808 acres of predominately lodgepole pine would be available for timber harvest under a clearcut system.

Approximately 28,011 acres of woodland would be available for the production of woodland products: firewood, posts/poles, and Christmas trees.

Until a decision is made on the Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek WSAs, 2,559 acres of commercial forest land of predominately Douglas-fir would be placed in a deferred category. An additional 5,069 acres of woodland would be placed in a deferred category for the same reason.

There would be 1,279 acres withdrawn from the timber base as a result of Timber Productivity Capability Classification Inventory conducted in the District in 1984. This acreage was withdrawn because of low productivity, unstable slopes, and/or problem with regeneration.

A maximum of the 500 acres of Juniper cutting for watershed improvement in the Soda Springs area under this Alternative.

Riparian and Water Quality (Refer to Appendix C)

Under this Alternative, 7.31 miles of riparian habitat would be proposed for disposal from Federal ownership (see Map 3). Two and three-fourths miles of riparian habitat in "Maintain" or "Custodial" grazing allotments would deteriorate in condition. Approximately 8.25 miles of fence would be constructed and grazing utilization on key riparian vegetative species would be limited to 50 percent. A total of 20.15 miles of stream would be managed to improve riparian habitat (Appendix A, Table A.4).

Soils and Watershed Management

Erosion monitoring would occur on 20 allotments (refer to Appendix H) to determine how much actual erosion is occurring. Approximately 867 acres of agriculture trespass lands would be restored to native range.

Approximately 948 acres would continue to be closed to livestock grazing (unallotted No. 0036) in Oneida Narrows and 224 acres of disturbed lands reclaimed on Woodall Mountain and Trail Creek. Approximately 360 acres of ashy soils (Allotment 4181) would be protected from all surface disturbance and monitored for adverse grazing impacts. About 500 acres of Juniper cutting would occur in the Soda Hills area. Approximately 400 acres in Oneida Narrow having steep slopes in grazing allotments 4062 and 4075 will be monitored for soil erosion caused by livestock grazing.

Fire Management

Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 253,143 acres. Under this Alternative, 11,338 acres would be managed under limited suppression. All developed recreation sites and potential

development sites would be under suppression restrictions, i.e. no retardant, no heavy equipment use, and no fireline explosives. Prescribed burns for vegetation manipulation would be conducted on 11,240 acres.

Access

Under Alternatives B, public access will be obtained to approximately 37,300 acres of public land (refer to Map 8).

ALTERNATIVE C

Goal

Alternative C favors production and use of commodity resources and commercial use authorizations. Management direction would favor higher livestock stocking levels, more range improvements, land disposal for agricultural development, and transfer of isolated or difficult to manage parcels out of Federal ownership. Restrictions on mining, mineral leasing, mineral material removal, and ORV use would be minimized.

More land would be transferred from Federal ownership than under any other Alternative.

Minerals Management

Non-energy solid mineral leasing would be permitted on 604,064 acres under standard stipulations. A total of 38,895 acres would be closed to solid leasing.

Under Alternative C, a total of 332,587 acres would be open for oil and gas and geothermal leasing with seasonal and standard stipulations; another 28,921 acres would be open with a NSO restriction. There would be 31,895 acres of lands closed to oil and gas and geothermal leasing.

A total of 330,250 acres would be open for the location of mining claims and managed under the surface management regulations. A total of 57,211 acres would be closed to mineral entry.

Mineral material disposals would be permitted on 313,788 acres of the PRA. A total of 73,673 acres would be closed to mineral material disposal.

Lands

Under Alternative C, 23,098 acres of public land would be available for transfer from Federal ownership through public sales, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, or exchanges. Included in this total are 14,166

acres that would be transferred solely through exchange. (See Map 4.)

A total of 241,383 acres of public land would be retained. BLM would attempt to acquire 11,647 acres of private land and 15,720 acres of State land through exchange for public land.

A total of 1,270 acres of public land would be retained and used under land use permits/leases.

Right-of-Way development with standard stipulations would occur on 221,521 acres. Special restrictions would be imposed on 31,622 acres. A total of 11,338 acres would be closed to right-of-way development.

Range Management

Under this Alternative, 17,600 acres of midseral and early seral condition range would be improved to late seral condition and all "I" (improve) category allotments would be improved to "M" (maintain).

Proposed range improvements include 16,110 acres of brush control, 1,490 acres of seeding, 44 springs, 18 water catchments, 14 reservoirs, 44.75 miles of fencing, and 800 acres of disturbed range restored for a current estimated total cost of \$382,025.

In both the short and long-term, adjustments to the active preference (upward/downward) would be made based upon results from approved range monitoring procedures, numbers of acres/AUM, general observations and professional judgment. The initial stocking level would be approximately 31,251 AUMs. Long-term stocking level would be about 36,990 AUMs.

Grazing adjustments would be made over the 15-year life of the Pocatello RMP. These would occur only after conducting monitoring studies and coordinating with the affected users.

Livestock grazing would be excluded from 307 acres of fenced RNAs. The RNAs are: Pine Gap, 232 acres; Dairy Hollow, 45 acres; and Travertine Park, 30 acres. The grazing preference on 3 allotments would be reduced by 25 AUMs because of these exclusions. The allotments are: 4122, 11 AUMs; 4329, 8 AUMs; and 4320, 4 AUMs.

Grazing increases resulting from range improvements would occur only if long-term monitoring indicates it to be prudent.

Adjusted turnout dates and/or season of use would be used to improve range condition, improve vigor of perennial vegetation and implement reductions needed to achieve management goals.

To implement this Alternative, AMPs/grazing systems would have to be developed on 114 allotments in the "Improve" category.

Wildlife Management

Two Habitat Management Plans would be proposed:

TABLE 2.2
PROPOSED HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Deer/Sage Grouse	East of Bear Lake	15,410
Deer/Sharp-tailed Grouse	King Creek	5,210

Approximately 6,662 deer and 510 elk would be supported on winter ranges on public lands.

Approximately 1,334 acres of big game winter/spring range and about 1,300 acres of sage grouse seasonal range would be improved.

Big game movement and safety would be enhanced through modification of about 4 miles of existing fence.

Waterfowl habitat would be improved in riparian areas through improved grazing management. Four goose nesting platforms are proposed along the Bear River.

Two 500-gallon guzzlers would be installed and exclosures would be built around the guzzlers. Approximately 417 acres of bitterbrush seeding would occur.

Approximately 28,921 acres of crucial habitat would have NSO restrictions on oil, gas, and geothermal leasing, exploration, and development. Availability of an additional 130,000 acres of habitat would be assured through seasonal restrictions on these activities.

Approximately 22,344 acres of big game winter range would be closed to snowmobile use.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Alternative C would continue with present ORV designations contained in the Pocatello ORV Designation Plan (08/15/80) and new designations added in the Caribou-Bear Lakes areas (refer to Map 16). ORV use designation in the Pocatello and Blackfoot River SRMAs would be determined by future activity plans. These SRMAs total 64,532 acres.

A total of 198,350 acres would be open to wheeled ORV use and 209,127 acres would be open to over-snow ORV use. BLM would limit wheeled ORVs to existing roads and trails on 65,811 acres and over-snow ORVs on big game winter range on 33,010 acres. A total of 320 acres would be closed to wheeled ORV use and 22,344 acres would be closed to snowmobiles to protect wintering big game.

Fourteen new recreation sites would be developed under this Alternative (refer to Map 16).

The following visual resources management designations would be made: Class I, 11,338 acres; Class II, 27,800 acres; Class III, 51,960 acres; and Class IV, 173,383 acres.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Under Alternatives C, the Stump Creek, Downey Watershed, and Travertine Park ACECs would be designated totaling 4,506 acres of public land. (See Map 16.) The three ACECs would be protected by restrictions on mining, grazing, and ORVs.

Research Natural Areas (RNA)

Under Alternatives C, RNA designations would be made for seven areas, totaling 1,494 acres. These seven areas are: Cheatbeck Canyon, Dairy Hollow, Formation Cave, Oneida Narrows, Pine Gap, Robbers Roost Creek, and Travertine Park (See Map 16). The seven RNAs would be protected by restrictions on mining, grazing, and ORVs.

Cultural Resources Management

NSO restrictions would be imposed on 5 acres of Historic Railroad Grades, 10 acres in Blackrock Canyon and 40 acres of Historic Trail Segments.

Forest Management

Under Alternative C, approximately 9,949 acres of commercial forest land would be available for selective and shelterwood cutting. An additional 808 acres of predominately lodgepole pine would be available for timber harvest under a clearcut cutting system.

Approximately 26,706 acres of woodland would be available for the production of woodland products: firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees, etc.

Until a decision is made on the Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek Wilderness Study Areas, 2,559 acres of commercial forest land of predominately Douglas-fir would be placed in a deferred category. An additional 5,069

acres of woodland would also be placed in a deferred category for the same reason.

There would be 1,279 acres withdrawn from the timber base as a result of Timber Productivity Capability Classification Inventory conducted in the District in 1984. This acreage was withdrawn because of low productivity reasons, unstable slopes ,and/or problem with regeneration.

A maximum of the 1,000 acres of Juniper cutting for watershed improvement in the Soda Springs area under this Alternative.

Riparian and Water Quality (Refer to Appendix C)

Under Alternative C, there would be 64.04 miles of stream that would remain in its present good to fair condition. About 30 miles of riparian habitat could be expected to move in a downward trend.

Approximately 18 miles of riparian stream habitat, 40 acres of wetlands and 3.3 acres of Bear Lake shoreline would be sold or exchanged under this Alternative (refer to Map 4).

Soils and Watershed Management

Erosion monitoring would occur on 20 allotments (refer to Appendix H) to determine how much actual erosion is occurring. Approximately 867 acres of agriculture trespass lands would be restored to native range thereby reducing annual erosion.

Approximately 948 acres would continue to be closed to livestock grazing (unallotted No. 0036) in Oneida Narrows and 314 acres of disturbed lands would be reclaimed on Woodall Mountain and Trail Creek. About 1,000 acres of Juniper cutting would occur in the Soda Hills area.

Fire Management

Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 253,143 acres. About 17,600 acres would undergo prescribed burning for vegetation manipulation. Under Alternative C, 11,338 acres would be managed under limited suppression.

Access

Under Alternatives C, public access will be obtained to approximately 37,300 acres of public land (refer to Map 8).