

SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Five alternatives are analyzed in the Pocatello Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (Part II of this document). Each alternative emphasizes a different management philosophy, ranging from continuing present management to making significant changes in future management. Impact assessment of these alternatives has identified the magnitude of environmental consequences associated with each. A preferred alternative (Alternative B) has been selected based on the planning criteria, issue resolution, public input, resource values, and impacts.

Planning criteria are the factors or data that BLM must consider prior to arriving at a land use decision relative to any issue. A discussion of how the nine general criteria have been applied in the selection of the preferred alternative follows.

Social and Economic Values

The preferred alternative considers social and economic values in all counties in the PRA by providing for land disposal, livestock grazing, mineral development, recreation, and timber harvest. About 17,068 acres of public land would be offered for transfer from Federal ownership. Livestock management would provide 34,276 AUMs of livestock forage over the long-term. A total of 598,581 acres would be open for non-energy solid minerals (phosphate) leasing. A total of 354,508 acres would be open for oil and gas/geothermal leasing and 330,250 acres would be open for location of mining claims.

Approximately 808 acres of public forest land would be available for intensive forest management and 11,369 acres would be available for restricted management. Additionally, 28,011 acres of woodland would be available for management with 5,069 acres of that total being deferred until a decision is made on two wilderness study areas.

The preferred alternative would increase direct livestock earnings from the existing situation by \$17,300 in the short-term and by \$110,600 in the long-term. This, however, represents only a gain of 0.02 to 0.1 percent on the PRA farm earnings. Direct recreation earnings would increase from the existing situation by \$49,500 or a gain of 0.1 percent in the PRA retail trade earnings. Direct lumber and wood earnings would be decreased from the existing situation by \$23,700. In the long-term, the capital value of AUMs could be increased by as much as \$1.4 million. Improvements needed to implement the preferred alternative would cost \$365,072.

Plans, Programs, and Policies of Other Federal Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM's resource management plans must be consistent with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans (or in their absence, policies or programs) of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. The preferred alternative is consistent with all county land use plans. Public input from Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the Sho-Ban Indian Tribe does not indicate that there are any inconsistencies with their plans.

Existing Law, Regulations, and BLM Policy

In the preferred alternative, there does not appear to be any discrepancy with existing law, regulation, or BLM policy.

Future Needs and Demand for Existing or Potential Resource Commodities and Values

The demand for phosphate ore is expected to remain stable over the short-term and increase slowly over the long-term. Continuing interest in oil and gas leasing and exploration is anticipated in Idaho with a high expectation of an eventual oil or gas discovery. The demand for the livestock grazing resource is high and there is a moderate demand for the timber resource. The preferred alternative meets or exceeds these demands.

The average use by livestock the past five years has been 24,061 AUMs. While the initial stocking rate would be 29,151 AUMs, the long-term stocking rate would increase to 34,276 AUMs.

Approximately 13,255 acres of public forest land would be open to commercial harvest, with an approximate allowable cut of 0.3 million board feet per year.

Public Input

The preferred alternative has taken into consideration the concerns of the minerals and energy industry by making lands accessible and available for exploration. Other public concerns have dealt with range resource, wildlife habitat, recreation, lands disposal, and timber harvest. The preferred alternative provides for the multiple use of all of these resources.

Public Welfare and Safety

Facilities provided at developed campgrounds and other recreational areas would provide for public welfare and safety. While public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally would remain available for such use without restrictions, restrictions could be

imposed when there is a need to promote user safety or protect a resource. To provide for public safety, stipulations would be included in mining plans of operations and timber harvesting. Emergency ORV restrictions would be published in the Federal Register and then proposed as a plan amendment requiring public input. Public hazards would be clearly marked and fenced, if necessary, to prevent injury. Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 253,143 acres.

Past and Present Use of Public and Adjacent Lands

The preferred alternative provides for the continuation of past and present use of public and adjacent lands while still providing for the protection and development of other resource values.

A decision was made in the Bannock/Oneida EIS to reserve 3,142 acres of unallotted rangeland in Bannock County for wildlife, watershed, and other non-grazing uses. This document modifies that decision and allows leasing of some of those areas while protecting additional acreage not previously covered. The net result is an increase of 987 acres under a no-lease provision.

Range management would provide 29,151 AUMs of livestock forage in the short-term and 34,276 AUMs in the long-term. A total of 598,581 acres would be open for solid minerals (phosphate) leasing. A total of 354,508 acres would be open for oil and gas/geothermal leasing and 330,250 acres would be open for location of mining claims. Approximately 13,255 acres of public forest land would be open to commercial harvest, with an approximate allowable cut of 0.4 million board feet per year. Big game populations of 7,105 deer and 543 elk would utilize 10,521 AUMs of forage.

For riparian, BLM would maintain 70.89 miles of stream in their present satisfactory condition and improve 20.15 miles. Under this multiple-use alternative, 2.75 miles would continue to decline in condition.

This alternative would recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in two special recreation management areas. Lands open to unrestricted, wheeled vehicle use would total 81,037 acres, while 143,931 acres would be open to over-snow vehicles.

Quantity and Quality of Noncommodity Resource Values

The preferred alternative provides noncommodity resource values such as wildlife, fisheries, watershed, recreation, wilderness, and cultural sites. The quantity and quality of these resources would best be protected by Alternative D. However, the preferred alternative would result in big game populations of 7,105 deer and 543 elk. For riparian habitat, BLM would maintain 70.89 miles of stream in their present condition and improve 20.15 miles. Approximately 2.75 miles would continue to decline in condition.

This alternative would recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in six existing recreation sites, five new sites, and two trail segments totaling six miles. Lands open to unrestricted, wheeled vehicle use would total 75,115 acres and lands open for over-snow vehicles, 143,931 acres.

Environmental Impacts

Transfer of lands out of Federal ownership would result in a loss of administrative control of all resource values except mineral values. Completion of nonstructural range improvements would represent a commitment of land and resources for the duration of the projects. Off-road-vehicle designations of "closed" would continue as in the Existing Situation or Alternative A. Alternative B would add new closed designations for wheeled vehicles by increasing from 320 acres to 3,537 acres and closed to over-snow vehicles by increasing from 22,344 acres to 26,877 acres.

The preferred alternative would provide for improvement in ecological range condition. Livestock AUMs would show a minor increase over the 5-year average use. Wildlife habitat condition and available AUMs would increase. Riparian habitat would show a moderate improvement. A major increase in recreational opportunities would take place. Impacts to cultural resources would decrease slightly.

Conclusion

Alternative B has been chosen as the preferred alternative. It gives no special emphasis to any one resource but emphasizes balanced, multiple-use management and is based upon a realistic expectation of funding. The rationale for selection of the preferred alternative is summarized below.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Minerals Management

The preferred alternative would maintain 598,581 acres (93 percent) of the PRA open to solid mineral leasing, 354,508 acres (90 percent) available for fluid mineral leasing, 330,250 acres (85 percent) available for locatable mineral entry and 311,793 acres (80 percent) open to mineral materials disposal. A total of 1,934 acres would be closed to mineral exploration on a seasonal basis to protect soils. NSO stipulations would apply to 30,499 acres. A total of 130,000 acres would have seasonal restrictions to protect wildlife. Under the preferred alternative, 977 acres of proposed RNAs, 2,706 acres of ACECs, and 1800 acres of the Downey PWR would be closed to leasing. A total of 44,378 (7 percent) acres of non-discretionary and discretionary

withdrawals would be closed to solid leasable minerals and 38,895 (10 percent) acres of non-discretionary and discretionary withdrawals would be closed to fluid leasable .

Rationale

Two issues were directed toward minerals management. Issue 10 addressed mineral development and Issue 11 addressed availability of lands for mineral leasing. The preferred alternative addresses both of these issues. Issue 10 was covered by illustrating the inter-relationship between minerals and other resources. This balanced approach helped define and clarify mineral development areas and subsequently mineral availability (Issue 11) was determined through conflict resolution.

The majority of public lands would be made available for mineral leasing, location, and for mineral materials disposals. Seasonal restrictions would protect other critical resource values and would not significantly impact mineral exploration or development opportunities. Withdrawals from mineral entry would insure the protection of those special or fragile areas while only having a minimal impact on availability.

Lands - Retention and Transfer

A total of 17,068 acres of public land would be evaluated through detailed studies for potential transfer out of public ownership. Of this total, 8,124 acres would be proposed for transfer solely through exchange. A total of 247,413 acres of public land would be retained. BLM would also attempt to acquire 9,687 acres of private land and 15,720 acres of State land primarily through exchange.

Rationale

The preferred alternative would recognize the expressed need to make lands with community expansion potential available for future development (Issue 1 - Land Tenure). The public lands identified as available for disposal would have little or no multiple use benefits.

The preferred alternative would maintain continuity in grazing allotments and retain tracts that have high wildlife and multiple use public values. Only parcels of relatively low multiple use value that are difficult an uneconomical to manage or present management problems would be available for transfer.

Access would be a key consideration in all land transfers. Parcels essential to assure public access to BLM administered public lands would be retained.

No public lands within the old Fort Hall Reservation boundary of 1898 area would be offered for disposal through sale. However, opportunities

for exchange may provide benefits to the off-Reservation rights and will be closely coordinated with the Tribes (Issue 9 - Shoshone-Bannock Off-Reservation Rights).

Range Management

The preferred alternative would retain 247,413 acres of public land for livestock grazing. The stocking rates would be 29,969 AUMs, a 20 percent increase from the current 5 year average use and a 2.8 percent increase from the current active preference. The long-term stocking rate would be 34,276 AUMs, which would be a 12.6 percent increase over the initial stocking rate of 29,969 AUMs. Livestock use adjustments in AUMs or season of use would be based on future monitoring and would be consistent with regulations and policy.

The preferred alternative recognizes the need for additional brush control. Seedings would be done in areas where a native perennial seed source is not available. Additional range improvements, water facilities and fencing would be provided. To implement this, AMPs/grazing systems would be developed (one for each allotment in the "Improve" category; see Appendix A Table A.1).

Rationale

Livestock grazing on public land is an important economic resource (Issue 3 - Range Management) for this area. The preferred alternative would maintain most of the current livestock operations with a possibility of increasing use as a result of implementing unallotted acres. The preferred alternative would also provide for multiple use while allowing grazing, soil protection, wildlife habitat and other resource uses. Range improvements would be designed to enhance or to have few adverse impacts on the other resource uses.

Shoshone-Bannock tribal members have a right to graze their livestock within the old ceded boundary. This right gives the Fort Hall tribal members preference over other members of the private sector (Issue 9 - Shoshone-Bannock Off-Reservation Rights).

Wildlife Management

Under the preferred alternative, projected populations of 7,105 deer and 543 elk would be supported on winter range on public lands. 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 joint AMP and HMP development by raising ecological range condition from fair to good (see Table 2.1 in the EIS for listing of proposed HMPs).

The Stump Creek ACEC would be designated to protect 2,483 acres of important elk winter range.

Rationale

The preferred alternative recognizes the importance of wildlife habitat on public lands (Issue 4 - Protection of Wildlife Habitat). It would provide for improvement of crucial elk winter habitat, deer, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and many non-game species habitat. There would be sufficient forage and habitat available to meet the goals of this alternative. Riparian areas would be considered of prime importance and be managed to maintain or improve them where possible. Sensitive and threatened or endangered species habitat would be protected.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Recreation use within the planning area is steadily growing. Principal uses include hunting, fishing, ORV use, river running and sightseeing. The preferred alternative will designate two Special Recreation Management Areas: The Pocatello ORV use area and Blackfoot River water-based recreation use area. Recreation sites would be developed at 5 additional locations in the planning area.

The preferred alternative would leave open a total of 75,115 acres to wheeled ORV use and 143,931 acres to over-snow ORV use. Limited designations would be placed on 185,829 acres for wheeled travel and 93,673 acres for over-snow use.

Rationale

The development of the recreation sites would help meet the increasing demand for the recreation resource in the area. The Special Recreation Management Area designations would provide for more detailed planning to accommodate primary uses and reduce conflicts between user.

The closure of areas to ORV use would protect soils from severe erosion and prevent direct conflicts with wildlife. ORV use in the PRA is continuing to grow and the preferred alternative would protect sensitive resources while allowing ORV use to continue in areas with less potential for resource damage (Issue 6 - Off-Road-Vehicle Use on Public Lands).

Special Designations

The preferred alternative would result in the designation of three ACECs totaling 4,506 acres and seven RNAs totaling 1,494 acres.

Rationale

The Stump Creek Ridge (2,483 acres) is one of the most important elk winter ranges in the PRA. Travertine Park ACEC has three unique features: rare plants, travertine outwash deposits, and a relatively undisturbed mixed-shrub ecosystem. Travertine Park ACEC comprises 223 acres. Downey Watershed ACEC (1800 acres) reserves all water on this land for the community needs of the city of Downey, Idaho.

The seven RNAs designated in the preferred alternative are: Cheatback Canyon (100 acres), comprised of excellent mixed stands of boxelder and bigtooth maple; Dairy Hollow (45 acres), contains unique geomorphic structures and a good stand of Wyoming sagebrush/needle-and-thread grass habitat as well as Astragalus spatulatus; Formation Cave (70 acres), has pristine stands of bitterbrush, Nevada bluegrass and shrubby cinquefoil; Oneida Narrows (617 acres), has near vertical limestone cliffs containing grottos and caves which provide a haven for a variety of birds and uniquely adapted plants; Pine Gap (232 acres) contains uniform stands of black sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass. It also has a rare plant Astragalus spatulatus. Robbers Roost Creek (400 acres) maintains an excellent shrub community common to this part of Idaho. It would provide a very good undisturbed reference and study area. Travertine Park (30 acres) has an undisturbed mixed-shrub community surrounded by rugged geomorphic features.

Cultural Resources

The preferred alternative would protect and preserve documented prehistoric and historic sites. Activity plans for significant sites would reduce vandalism, and non-permitted artifact removal, while encouraging scientific archaeological research and interpretation.

Rationale

The PRA's cultural resources are fragile and nonrenewable. They have significant archaeological research potential. They also have high educational and visitor use potential. The preferred alternative recognizes the nature and significance of these resources, and would recommend protective measures or public information facilities.

Forest Management

The preferred alternative would make 13,255 acres of commercial forest land available for restricted and non-restricted management through clearcut, shelterwood, and select cut harvest regeneration methods.

Approximately 28,011 acres of woodlands would be available for the production of woodland products (firewood, posts and poles, Christmas trees, etc.).

Rationale

The commercial forest lands designated as available for harvest would meet the demand for forest products from the public land. The woodland acres designated as available for harvest would meet the needs of the public by identifying firewood cutting areas and making them accessible. (Issue 7 - Timber and Firewood Utilization).

Riparian and Water Quality

The preferred alternative would improve water quality, fisheries habitat and riparian habitat on 20.15 miles of stream in the area. Some fencing would be required to provide the protection needed. An additional 70.89 miles of stream would be managed to maintain existing fisheries, water quality and riparian habitat which is currently in satisfactory condition.

Rationale

The preferred alternative recognizes the water and water related resources in the area are of great importance to the public land and the private land (Issue 8 - Protection of Riparian Habitat and Water Quality).

Steps have been taken in the preferred alternative to improve these resources through management and fencing. Other resource water needs would be taken into consideration in all management actions considered to meet water quality standards.

Soils and Watershed Management

The preferred alternative would protect 948 acres from erosion at Oneida Narrows and 224 acres of disturbed lands would be reclaimed on Woodall Mountain and Trail Creek. Approximately 360 acres of ashy soils would be protected from any surface disturbance and 500 acres of Juniper would be cut to improve ground cover and reduce erosion potential.

Rationale

Some soils in the PRA are very susceptible to soil erosion. The preferred alternative would protect areas where severe soil erosion would occur. It would also provide the means to monitor erosion rates and develop procedures to alleviate the problem.

Fire Management

The preferred alternative would provide full suppression on 96 percent of the PRA. Limited suppression would be implemented on 4 percent of the

area; prescribed fire would be used as a management tool on about one-fourth of the limited suppression area. Fire management plans would be developed which lay out fire prevention and suppression guidelines and fire prescriptions defining under what conditions burning would be allowed.

Rationale

The majority of the area would receive full suppression. Mosaic landownership patterns with resource values and high risk factors necessitate full suppression action. The implementation of limited suppression areas would provide protection during the periods when conditions warrant and reduce fire suppression costs. Prescribed fire provides an economical means of brush control; previous burns have proven very successful and economical.

Access

The preferred alternative would obtain legal public access to 37,300 acres (see Map 8) of public land (17 percent of the PRA).

Rationale

The scattered, isolated nature of some blocks of public land in the PRA provides limited or no public access across private lands. The major need for improved access comes from recreationists (hunting, fishing, ORV users); however, the Forestry and Wildlife programs would also benefit from improved access to public lands. Wherever a need to improve access to public lands across private lands is identified, the impacts to private landowners will have to be carefully considered (Issue 2 - Legal and Physical Access to Public Lands).

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following management guidance applies to, and is a part of, the Proposed Management Prescription as well as all alternatives considered in detail in Part II. All standard operating procedures are based on existing laws, regulations, and policy.

Allowable Uses

The public lands will be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by the FLPMA. Any valid use, occupancy, or development of the public lands that conforms with the RMP will be considered. Those uses, including rights-of-way, leases, and permits,

will be subject to environmental review and may require limitations or stipulations to protect and preserve natural resources. Limitations may also be imposed on either the type or intensity of use, or both, because of environmental values, hazards, or special management considerations. Some limitations have already been identified for specific areas. These are included in the land use allocations and management objectives in this RMP.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will ensure that the detailed management plans and individual projects resulting from the RMP are consistent with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other agencies, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes. Cooperative agreements and Memoranda of Understanding will be developed as needed.

Air Quality

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

Two cities in the PRA were classified nonattainment: Soda Springs and Pocatello. As a result, the BLM will consult Rules and Regulations for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho (1985) before conducting activities (such as prescribed burning) which would increase the amount of particulate matter.

Lands

Land Ownership Adjustments

Objectives for acquiring public lands are discussed under activity needs within the alternatives. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustments in the PRA will be made based on whether the lands are needed for BLM programs or are considered more valuable for other purposes. The following criteria will be applied to site-specific determinations for lands that are within transfer areas:

1. Public resource values to be considered include but are not limited to:
 - a. Threatened, endangered, or sensitive species habitat.
 - b. Riparian areas.
 - c. Fisheries.
 - d. Nesting/breeding habitat for game animals.
 - e. Key big game seasonal habitat.
 - f. Developed recreation and recreation access sites.
 - g. Class I scenery.
 - h. Municipal watersheds.
 - i. Energy and mineral potential.
 - j. Sites or places eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - k. Other designations authorized by law.
2. Accessibility of the land for public uses.
3. Amount of public investment in facilities or improvements and the potential for recovering that investment.
4. Difficulty and cost of administration (manageability).
5. Suitability of the land for management by another Federal agency.
6. Significance of the decision in stabilizing business, social, and economic conditions and/or lifestyles.

Retention Areas

Public land will be retained in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Where unforeseen needs are identified, land disposals will be considered through plan amendments.

Transfer Areas

Public land within transfer areas generally will be made available for disposal through sales, exchanges, or Recreation & Public Purposes Act. Some land may be retained in public ownership when public values dictate .

All land exchanges or land disposals involving riparian habitat, wetlands, and floodplains will be conducted in accordance with E.O. 11988 and E.O. 11990. Also, BLM policy in reality action will:

1. Avoid long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetland-riparian areas.
2. Avoiding construction in wetland-riparian areas areas whenever there is a practical alternative.

3. Preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetland-riparian areas which may include constraining or excluding those uses that cause significant, long-term ecological damage.
4. Include practical measures to minimize harm in all actions causing adverse impacts to wetland-riparian areas.
5. Retain under BLM administration and ownership all wetlands and riparian habitats except:
 - a. If Federal, State, public and private institutions, and parties have demonstrated the ability to maintain, restore, and protect wetlands and riparian habitats on a continuous basis.
 - b. If transfer of public lands, minerals, and subsurface estates is mandated by legislation or Presidential order.

Exchanges

Land to be acquired by BLM through exchanges generally should be located in the retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should:

1. Facilitate access to public lands and resources.
2. Maintain or enhance important public values and uses.
3. Maintain or enhance local social and economic values.
4. Improve management efficiency through the elimination of isolated tracts and the blocking up of public lands.
5. Facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Pocatello RMP.

Land for Local Government and Community Expansion

In the past, sanitary landfill sites have been authorized under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP). BLM will no longer lease or patent land for landfill purposes under this Act because of the liability and enforcement problems associated with hazardous waste disposals.

Sales

Public land to be sold must meet one or more of the following criteria derived from Section 203(a) of the FLPMA:

1. The land must be difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and must not be suitable for management by another Federal department or agency.
2. The land must have been acquired for a specific purpose and must no longer be required for that or any other Federal purpose.

3. Disposal of the land will serve important public objectives that can be achieved prudently or feasibly only if the land is removed from public ownership, and these objectives outweigh other public objectives and values that would be served by maintaining the land in Federal ownership.

Sale will be the preferred method of disposal when:

1. It is required by national policy.
2. The level of interest in a specific tract indicates that competitive bidding is desirable for reasons of fairness.

Unauthorized Use

It is BLM policy to identify, abate, and prevent unauthorized use of public lands.

Utility/Rights-of-Way

Utility and transportation development may be permitted based on consideration of the following criteria:

1. Type of and need for the proposed facility.
2. Conflicts with other existing or potential resource values and uses.
3. Availability of alternatives and/or mitigation measures.

Land Use Authorizations

Land use permits under Section 302 of the FLPMA may be used as an interim management measure for resolving unauthorized use problems prior to a final land use/status determination, and for one-time uses of short duration. Leases will be used as a longer term (5 to 10 years) interim management tool, particularly where future disposal or dedication to another particular land use is contemplated. The latter may allow for agricultural use on an area that may also be needed for future communication sites, as a materials source, or for community expansion needs.

Cooperative agreements, under certain circumstances, may be reached with other Federal entities for uses that are not appropriately covered by a right-of-way or a withdrawal. Flood control and aquifer recharge areas may be most appropriately covered by cooperative agreements.

Withdrawals and Classifications

In accordance with FLPMA, BLM is required to review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands by October 20, 1991. This includes a

review of approximately 53,865 acres of various withdrawals. The review of all public lands under the Classification and Multiple Use Act (C&MU) which terminates 197,200 acres of public land, was completed November 9, 1982. The C&MU termination is pending and is subject to the final outcome of the National Wildlife Federation lawsuit (Civil Action #85-2238).

Access

All existing public access routes will be reserved if the lands are transferred out of public ownership.

Access Acquisition

Before the initiation of the acquisition activity, either access needs will be identified or a determination will be made that no access rights need be acquired in the planning process. This decision-making process occurs only after a full inventory and analysis of public lands and resource management needs have been completed and approved. BLM will acquire all interests in the name of the "United States of America and its assigns," and to acquire only those interests needed to adequately protect the United States' investments. The BLM will not take the initiative and acquire property in fee when an easement or other suitable alternative is available. BLM personnel must adhere to the applicable provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 CFR Secs. 4601 et seq.) and the Department's Federal Property Management Regulations (41 CFR Part 114-50) reprinted as "400 DM Additions to FPMR". Acquisition of access rights will support one or more of these resources: lands, minerals, forestry, range, wildlife, recreation, and watershed.

Generally, the BLM will acquire exclusive easements. This type of easement conveys to the United States full control of the easement right-of-way for the purposes stated in the document. It may provide legal access to public lands for the United States, its permittees, licensees, and the general public. It may enable the BLM to regulate use of the road through issuance of right-of-way permits or licenses. BLM can spend the necessary funds to construct, reconstruct, improve, and maintain facilities on the easement area which are commensurate with its management objectives. These easements generally are perpetual. Exclusive easements should be acquired when one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. Access by the general public to public lands is needed.
2. Substantial investment in construction, improvement, and/or maintenance of physical improvements on the acquired property is planned.

3. Existing cooperative road agreements require that BLM acquire adequate rights for other parties.
4. Where applicable in the case of the logging road permits issued or assigned after May 4, 1956, the BLM may obtain perpetual easements under the terms of 43 CFR 2812.6-2(a)(11) for construction of roads with appropriated funds.

Energy and Minerals

The following leasable minerals procedures describe BLM's leasable mineral management responsibilities on all Federal lands. These responsibilities include the Federal mineral estate under National Forest System lands, which were added to the BLM following the 1982 merger of the BLM and Minerals Management Service. The locatable and salable procedures are limited to BLM administered lands and minerals.

These Forest Service administered acres are shown in Tables 4 and 5. Forest Service acreage data will only be included in this section of this RMP and will not be carried through the Alternatives Analysis in the EIS. If more information is desired, please refer to the Caribou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

TABLE 4
NON-ENERGY SOLID LEASABLE MINERALS
WITHIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS WITHIN PRA

<u>Area Open</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Low Potential	128,990
High Potential	38,150
No Potential	<u>751,139</u>
Subtotal	918,279
<u>Area Closed</u>	
Low Potential	1/ 9,292
High Potential	2/ 140
No Potential	<u>37,034</u>
Subtotal 3/	46,466
TOTAL	964,745

1/ Admin. Sites (604 acres), Recommend No Prospecting Permits (8688 acres)

2/ Johnson Creek Admin. Site

3/ WSA (30,600 acres), Admin. Sites (7178 acres), Recommend No Prospecting Permit (8688 acres)

TABLE 5
 FLUID LEASABLE MINERALS
 WITHIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS WITHIN PRA

<u>Area Open</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Low Potential	204,069
Moderate Potential	49,012
High Potential	<u>673,886</u>
Subtotal	926,967
<u>Area Closed</u>	
Low Potential	2,010
Moderate Potential	556
High Potential	<u>35,212</u>
Subtotal	37,778
TOTAL	964,745

Within the PRA boundaries, the Caribou National Forest contains 964,745 acres of Federal mineral estate, 95.2 percent of which is considered open for solid mineral leasing and 96.1 percent of which is considered open for fluid mineral leasing.

Within the National Forest, the following categories of lands are considered closed to solid mineral leasing: Forest Service Administrative Sites, RARE II Roadless Areas, and other lands considered but not recommended for Phosphate Prospecting Permit issuance (covered in a 1983 USFS Environmental Assessment). For fluid mineral leasing the Rare II roadless area and Administrative sites are closed to leasing.

BLM also has mineral management responsibility on the Fort Hall Reservation. Standard operating procedures are based on the 1984 Memorandum of Understanding for Mineral Exploration, Leasing and Development between BLM and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Solid Leasable Minerals - Phosphate

The PRA processes Phosphate Prospecting Permit Applications on lands where BLM is the surface management agency. The 43 CFR 3500 regulations require that the prospecting permit and associated exploration plan be combined into one permit action.

If a valuable deposit of phosphate is discovered, an application for Preference Right Lease is applied for and must also include a description of the proposed mining methods.

Mining/Reclamation plans are required prior to mining on a Federal Lease. The mine plans are reviewed for technical adequacy, maximization of resource recovery, safety, and environmental impacts. An environmental document is written and special stipulations to mitigate impacts are included in the mine plan approval.