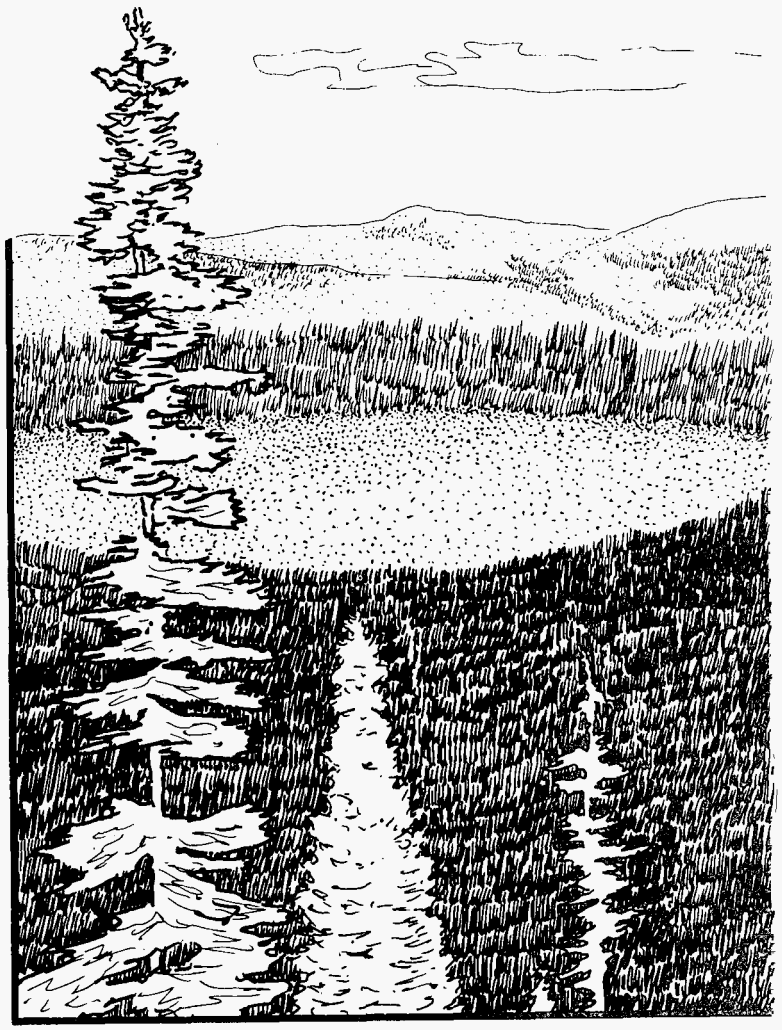
APPENDIX A
MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

APPENDICES



A total of 14 management areas have been identified for use in the Garnet RMP. Each management area consists of units of public land with similar resource potentials and limitations that are designated for management under a common set of management goals and guidelines. Management area boundaries do not always follow easily located topographic features or legal subdivisions. The boundaries are flexible to assure proper management of resources identified through additional on-the-ground reconnaissance and project planning. Each management area may occur in several places within the resource area. The maps displaying management areas for Alternatives A-E (in back map packet) must be used in conjunction with these descriptions.

Management area descriptions, goals, and guidelines for the Garnet Resource Area are defined in this appendix. The guidelines include numerous mitigative and resource coordination measures as required by NEPA and other laws, regulations, and policies.

MANAGEMENT AREA 1: RIPARIAN PROTECTION ZONE

Description

Management Area 1 includes lands dominated by riparian vegetation, adjacent to rivers, perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, and wet meadows with high values for wildlife and fish habitat, visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, and livestock forage.

Management Goals

1. Manage riparian areas to maintain or enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery, and aquatic habitat.

2. Provide some elements of old-growth or mature forest for wildlife habitat.

3. Provide opportunities to improve wildlife and fisheries habitat through specifically prescribed vegetative manipulation.

4. Maintain or enhance site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted where use has been established. Grazing systems and management practices will be designed to maintain or improve riparian vegetation, aquatic habitat conditions, and streambank stability.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Mineral material permits generally will not be issued.

5. Herbicides and insecticides will not be used.

6. Commercial forest land is set aside.

7. Noncommercial forest land is unavailable for woodlands product harvest.

8. Firewood collection will not be authorized. Exceptions may be permitted where compatible with management goals.

9. New roads will avoid riparian zones, except where required to cross streams or to provide access to meet management goals. Existing roads in the riparian zone will be reviewed for possible stabilization, closure, or relocation outside the riparian zone.

10. A variety of dispersed and water based recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by the development of river access, trails, and trailhead facilities. Cooperative river management programs for recreation will be encouraged with appropriate BLM participation on the Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, and Rock Creek.

11. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

12. The area will be managed to meet the visual quality objective of Visual Resource Management Class II or III from the viewpoints identified on the visual sensitivity maps. Temporary departures from this visual quality objective may be acceptable when long-term visual values require such an action, or essential road access into other management areas is impossible without this temporary departure. Visual quality rehabilitation measures will be taken where the visual quality objective is not being met.

13. These lands generally will remain in public ownership. However, exceptions may be permitted where exchanges would result in acquisition of lands with greater public values.

14. These lands will be avoidance areas for utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA 2: RIPARIAN MULTIPLE USE ZONE

Description

Management Area 2 includes lands dominated by riparian vegetation, adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, springs, and wet meadows with value for wildlife and fish habitat, visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, and livestock forage.

Management Goals

1. Manage riparian areas to maintain or enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery, and aquatic habitat.

2. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions that maintain or improve riparian zone values.

3. Provide elements of old-growth or mature timber for wildlife habitat.

4. Maintain or enhance site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Grazing systems and management practices will be designed to maintain or improve riparian vegetation, aquatic habitat conditions, and streambank stability.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Mineral material permits generally will not be issued.

5. Herbicides and insecticides will not be used.

6. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis for project plans. For general land management planning the management area will be considered as 75 feet on either side of designated stream channels or other aquatic features.

7. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve riparian zone values.

8. Noncommercial forest land is available for wood product harvest. Generally, harvest will only occur when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

9. Firewood collection may be authorized. Closures may be implemented where needed to achieve management goals.

10. Machine scarification will not be used on slopes over 40 percent or in the riparian buffer zones designated in Table A-1.

TABLE A-1

RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE

Land Slope	Buffer Zone
10%	75 feet
20%	130 feet
30%	170 feet
40%	210 feet

11. No wheel or crawler vehicles will operate within 75 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, except as required for road construction at stream crossings. Timber harvest and site preparation will maintain a minimum 75 feet wide strip of vegetation along stream channels to filter sediment and organic debris from disturbed areas.

12. New road locations will avoid the riparian zones, except where required to cross streams or to provide access to meet management goals. Road location and design adjacent to seeps, bogs, marshes, and wet meadows should avoid diverting flow of water from riparian features below roads or draining riparian features above roads.

13. A variety of dispersed and water based recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by the development of access trails and trailheads.

14. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

15. The area will be managed to meet the visual quality objective of Visual Resource Management Class II or III from the viewpoints identified on the visual sensitivity maps. Temporary departures from this visual quality objective may be acceptable when long-term visual values require such an action, or essential road access into other management areas is impossible without this temporary departure. Visual quality rehabilitation measures will be taken where the visual objective is not being met.

16. These lands may be available for exchange or sale. All proposals will be evaluated.

17. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridor if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 3: GENERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

Description

Management Area 3 consists of commercial forest lands of varying physical environments classified as suitable for timber management through Timber Production Capability Classification (see Appendix C).

Management Goals

1. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land to realize timber growing potential.

2. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

3. Provide for dispersed recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and livestock use within the constraints of 1 and 2 above.

4. Provide elements of old-growth wildlife habitat in the immediate vicinity of important big game summer and fall habitat features such as wallows, licks, security areas, etc.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Fencing, herding, manipulation of salt and water, or adjustments in the pasture rotation schedule will be used to protect regeneration in plantations. The number of Animal Unit Months authorized may be increased, reduced, or relocated in response to vegetative changes.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations.

3. Generally, these lands are available for mineral exploration and production. Locatable minerals will be regulated by the 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Project plans will incorporate considerations for elk summer habitat, deer and elk winter ranges, riparian habitat, and nongame wildlife habitat management where these values are present or potentially present.

5. Specific big game features such as wallows, mineral licks, and important forage and resting sites associated with mesic areas will be protected with a buffer strip in which sanitation and salvage or selection harvest maintaining a minimum 70 percent of existing or normal tree canopy is permitted. For planning purposes, the width of the buffer strip will be mapped as 200 feet from the perimeter of the feature or complex of features. For project activity, the buffer strip width may vary, depending on the effectiveness of vegetative and topographic screens, but will not exceed 300 feet. Cutting unit boundaries will be adjusted so that the feature is contiguous to forested security cover. Skidding equipment should not be permitted within 100 feet of the feature and logging debris should be removed from all trails leading to the feature.

6. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

7. Timber harvest systems will include varying proportions of clearcut, seed tree, shelterwood, and selection depending on stand and site productivity and silvicultural objectives.

8. Timber harvest and slash treatment practices will be designed to provide opportunities for public firewood collection.

9. Machine scarification will not be used on slopes over 40 percent or in the riparian buffer zones designated in Table A-2.

TABLE A-2

RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONES FOR TOLERANT AND SENSITIVE SOILS

Land Slope	For General Situation	Buffer Zone for Sensitive Soils
10%	45 feet	75 feet
20%	65 feet	130 feet
30%	85 feet	170 feet
40%	105 feet	210 feet

10. No wheel or crawler vehicles will operate within 45 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, except as required for road construction at stream crossings. Timber harvest and site preparation will maintain a minimum 45-foot wide strip of vegetation along stream channels to filter sediment and organic debris from disturbed areas.

11. Timber harvest will be designed to prevent an increase in runoff that is likely to result in stream channel degradation.

12. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads.

13. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

14. Seasonal or yearlong road closures will be permitted to achieve management goals for Management Area 3 or for adjacent management areas.

15. Management practices will follow guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class III or IV.

16. These lands may be available for exchange or sale depending upon their size and location. All proposals will be evaluated.

17. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 4: ELK SUMMER AND FALL HABITAT COMPONENTS

Description

Management Area 4 includes high density mappable portions of the resource area's elk summer and fall habitat components. It includes commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands containing components such as wallows, mineral licks, travel corridors, forage, and security areas in close proximity so that they tend to concentrate big game animals in a relatively small area. Although emphasis is on elk, other big game species will receive management consideration.

Management Goals

1. Maintain or improve elk summer and fall habitat components through specifically prescribed vegetative manipulation.

2. Provide elements of old-growth or mature timber for wildlife habitat in the immediate vicinity of elk summer and fall habitat components.

3. Manage riparian areas to maintain or enhance their value for wildlife, fisheries, aquatic habitat, recreation, watershed protection, and water quality.

4. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions that consider long-term requirements for elk summer and fall habitat components, including habitat conditions on adjoining lands.

5. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted and will be regulated to maintain or improve elk summer and fall habitat components.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activity will be guided by management goals.

4. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

5. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve elk summer and fall habitat components.

6. Noncommercial forest land may be considered for woodlands product harvest only when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

7. Firewood collection will be provided in timber sale areas, only when compatible with management goals.

8. Road location will avoid elk habitat components including wallows, licks, high use forage areas, and saddles used as travel routes wherever possible. Road right-of-way slash will be disposed of in such a way that it does not pose a travel barrier. Road right-of-way clearing will be kept to a minimum.

9. Duration of timber sale activity will be limited to as short a period as possible. Timber should be harvested, slash treated, and roads closed within two summer seasons. Additional timber sales will not be scheduled in or adjacent to Management Area 4 cutting units for five years following closure of a timber sale in the unit unless required to salvage mortality.

10. Security areas will be maintained adjacent to units where timber sales are scheduled as described in *Montana Cooperative Elk Logging Study* (USDA, FS 1982a) management recommendations (see Appendix S). Security areas should consist of adjacent drainages with acceptable cover quality in which no disturbance or timber sale activity is scheduled.

11. Harvest and thinning units will be 20 acres or less with irregular shapes or reserve blocks within units to increase edge effect and maintain proper sight distances. Reserve areas between treatment units will be a minimum of 600 feet wide. Timber harvest adjacent to past cutting units will be deferred until regeneration provides security cover with a minimum of 200 trees per acre eight feet high.

12. Slash disposal in cutting units will reduce average slash depths to less than 1.5 feet to reduce interference with forage use and travel.

13. Timber harvest will include varying proportions of shelterwood, seed tree, clearcuts, and selection methods.

14. Habitat components such as wallows, mineral licks, and forage and resting sites associated with mesic areas will be protected with a buffer strip in which sanitation and salvage or selection harvest maintaining a minimum 70 percent of existing or normal tree canopy is permitted. For planning purposes, the width of the buffer strip will be 200 feet from the perimeter of the feature or complex of features. For project activity, the buffered area (location) will be determined on the ground to take advantage of screening topography and vegetation, but not to exceed 300 feet width from the perimeter of the feature or complex of features. Cutting unit boundaries will be adjusted so that the feature is contiguous to forested security cover. Skidding equipment should not be permitted within 100 feet of the feature and logging debris should be removed from all trails leading to the feature.

15. Timber harvest will be designed to maintain or develop security cover adjacent to natural forage areas. Shelterwood or selection systems will generally be favored adjacent to one to five-acre parks, meadows, and grasslands; and intermediate treatments (thinnings) will be designed to maintain security cover. For parks, meadows, and grasslands over five acres, timber harvest units may remove cover from up to 25 percent of the park perimeter. The remainder of the perimeter will be maintained in existing cover until harvested portions return to security cover. Security cover on the upslope portions of parks is especially critical.

16. The resource area wildlife and forestry staff will review prescriptions, unit layout, and marking guides for effectiveness in providing security cover throughout the rotation.

17. Timber harvest along designated ridge tops, saddles, and draws used as travel routes by big game will be designed to maintain hiding or thermal cover 600 feet wide using predominantly shelterwood or selection systems along travel routes. Wherever possible cover should be continuous and not disruped by clearcut or seed tree units or roads.

18. Machine scarification will not be used in slopes over 40 percent or in the riparian buffer zones designated in Table A-2.

19. No wheel or crawler vehicles will operate within 45 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, except as required for road construction at stream crossings. Timber harvest will maintain a minimum 45-foot wide strip of undisturbed vegetation along stream channels to filter sediment and organic debris from disturbed areas.

20. Timber harvest will be designed to prevent an increase in runoff that is likely to result in stream channel degradation.

21. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by existing trails and trailheads. New trail construction or relocation of existing trails will avoid this management area. Campgrounds and other recreation developments will not be constructed.

22. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

23. Existing mainline and spur roads will be closed seasonally or yearlong to motorized vehicle travel, except where checkerboard ownership patterns prevent unilateral closure of roads. In these cases, BLM will aggressively pursue the establishment of seasonal or yearlong cooperative road closures. Any new roads will also be closed seasonally or yearlong.

24. Management practices will follow the guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class III or IV.

25. These lands generally will remain in public ownership. However, exceptions may be permitted where exchanges would result in acquisition of lands with greater public values.

26. These lands will be avoidance areas for utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA 5: BIG GAME SUMMER AND FALL RANGE

Description

Management Area 5 consists of commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands which are summer and fall ranges for big game, with emphasis on elk. This management area is applied where public lands are important elk summer and fall habitat.

Management Goals

1. Provide a beneficial arrangement of forage and cover for big game summer and fall range through timber management activities.

2. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions that consider the long-term requirements of big game summer and fall habitat, including habitat conditions on adjoining lands.

3. Provide for dispersed recreation opportunities, nongame wildlife habitat, and livestock use.

4. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

5. Provide elements of old-growth or mature forest for wildlife habitat in the immediate vicinity of big game summer habitat components.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing will generally be permitted and will be regulated to maintain summer range values.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Lands are generally available for locatable minerals and will be regulated by the 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

5. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve big game summer and fall habitat.

6. Noncommercial forest land may be considered for wood product harvest only when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

7. Firewood collection opportunities will be authorized in timber sale areas. Authorizations may be restricted as needed to achieve management goals.

8. Duration of timber sale activity will be limited to as short a period as possible. Timber should be harvested, slash treated, and roads closed within a maximum of three summer seasons.

9. Big game habitat components such as wallows, mineral licks, and foraging or resting sites will be protected with a buffer strip in which sanitation and salvage or selection harvest maintaining a minimum 70 percent of existing or normal tree canopy is permitted. For planning purposes the width of the buffer strip will be mapped as 200 feet from the perimeter of the components. For project activity, the buffer strip width may vary, depending on the effectiveness of vegetative and topographic screens, but will not exceed 300 feet. Cutting unit boundaries will be adjusted so that the component is contiguous to forested security cover. Skidding equipment should not be permitted within 100 feet of the component, and logging debris should be removed from all trails leading to the component.

10. Timber harvest will be designed to maintain or develop security cover adjacent to natural big game forage areas. Shelterwood or selection systems will generally be favored adjacent to one to five-acre parks, meadows, and grasslands; and intermediate treatments (thinnings) will be designed to maintain security cover. For parks, meadows, and grasslands over 5 acres timber harvest will remove cover from no more than 40 percent of the park perimeter. The remainder of the perimeter will be maintained in existing cover until harvested portions return to security cover. Security cover on the upslope portions of parks is especially critical. The resource area wildlife and forestry staff will review prescriptions, cutting unit layout, and marking guides for effectiveness in providing security cover throughout the rotation.

Security areas will be maintained adjacent to units where timber sales are scheduled as described in *Montana Cooperative Elk Logging Study* (USDA, FS 1982a) management recommendations. Security areas should consist of adjacent drainages with acceptable cover quality in which no disturbance or timber sale activity is scheduled.

11. Slash disposal in cutting units will reduce average slash depths to less than 1.5 feet to reduce interference with big game forage use and travel.

12. Timber harvest will include varying proportions of clearcut, seed tree, and shelterwood systems, depending on stand and site conditions and silvicultural objectives.

13. In order to optimize cover effectiveness harvest and thinning units will generally be irregular in shape at 20 to 40 acres. Reserve areas between treatment units will be a minimum of 600 feet wide. Timber harvest adjacent to past harvest units will be deferred until regeneration on harvest units constitute security cover with a minimum of 200 trees per acre eight feet high.

14. Timber harvest along designated ridge tops, saddles, and draws used as travel routes by big game will be designed to maintain hiding or thermal cover

600 feet wide using predominantly shelterwood systems along travel routes. Wherever possible cover should be continuous and not disrupted by clearcut or seed tree units or roads.

15. Machine scarification will not be used on slopes over 40 percent or in the riparian buffer zones designated in Table A-2.

16. No wheel or crawler vehicles will operate within 45 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, except as required for road construction at stream crossings. Timber harvest will maintain a minimum 45-foot wide strip of undisturbed vegetation along stream channels to filter sediment and organic debris from disturbed areas. Timber harvest will be designed to prevent an increase in runoff that is likely to result in stream channel degradation.

17. Road location will avoid habitat components including wallows, licks, high use forage areas, and saddles used as big game travel routes wherever possible. Road right-of-way slash will be disposed of in such a way that it does not pose a barrier to big game travel. Road right-of-way clearing will be kept to the minimum required. Roads will be located and designed to reduce barriers to big game travel.

18. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads. Campgrounds and other recreation developments will not be constructed.

19. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for winter snowmobile use.

20. Generally roads will be closed seasonally or yearlong to motorized vehicle travel, except where checkerboard ownership patterns prevent unilateral closure of roads. In these cases, BLM will aggressively pursue the establishment of seasonal or yearlong cooperative road closures.

21. Management practices will follow the guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class III or IV.

22. Generally, these lands will remain in public ownership.

23. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 6: BIG GAME WINTER RANGE

Description

Management Area 6 consists of commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands which are winter ranges for deer, elk, or bighorn sheep. These lands will be managed to attain a balance of winter cover and forage for big game through timber management activities.

Management Goals

1. Enhance forage production and cover for deer, elk, or bighorn sheep on winter range.

2. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions for the maintenance or improvement of big game winter range.

3. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

4. Provide for dispersed recreation opportunities, nongame wildlife habitat, and livestock use.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted and regulated to maintain sufficient forage to meet big game needs.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans; and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

5. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve big game winter range.

6. Noncommercial forest land may be considered for woodlands product harvest only when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

7. Firewood collection opportunities will be authorized in timber sale areas. Authorization may be restricted as needed to achieve management goals.

8. Timber sale contracts will prohibit most sale activity during the winter and spring seasons to prevent disturbance of animals on winter range. Where winter logging is desirable, the activity must be compatible with big game winter habitat requirements.

9. Timber harvest will be designed to prevent runoff increases likely to result in stream channel degradation.

10. Duration of timber sale activity should be limited to as short a period as possible. Timber will be harvested, slash treated, and roads closed within two summer seasons in timber sale units.

11. Machine scarification will not be used on slopes over 40 percent or in the riparian buffer zones designated in Table A-2.

12. No wheel or crawler vehicles will operate within 45 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, except as required for road construction at stream crossings. Timber harvest will maintain a minimum 45-foot wide strip of undisturbed vegetation along stream channels to filter sediment and organic debris from disturbed areas.

13. Timber sale units and thermal or security cover areas will generally be 20 to 30 acres in size. Unit shapes will be irregular with reserve blocks within harvest units where necessary to increase edge effect and maintain proper sight distances. Reserve areas between harvest units will be as wide as the harvest units or a minimum of 600 feet wide. Timber harvest adjacent to past harvest units will be deferred until harvest units constitute security cover with a minimum of 200 trees per acre 8 feet high.

14. Cover areas will be managed to maximize thermal cover (70+ percent forest canopy cover, minimum 40 feet dominant canopy height, preferably two-storied) with the remainder in security cover. Thermal cover should be provided on both low and high energy aspects adjacent to forage areas.

15. Timber harvest will be designed to maintain or develop thermal cover adjacent to natural big game forage areas. Shelterwood or selection systems will generally be favored adjacent to one to five-acre parks, meadows, and grasslands and intermediate treatments (thinnings) will be designed to develop or maintain thermal cover. For parks, meadows, and grasslands over 5 acres, timber harvest may remove cover from up to 25 percent of the park perimeter. The remainder of the perimeter will be maintained in existing cover until harvested portions return to thermal cover. The resource area wildlife and forestry staff will review prescriptions, unit layout, and marking guides for effectiveness in providing thermal cover throughout the rotation.

16. Silvicultural systems will include varying proportions of clearcut, seed tree, shelterwood, group selection, and single tree selection methods.

17. Road right-of-way slash will be disposed of in such a way that it does not pose a barrier to big game travel. Slash disposal in cutting units will reduce average slash depths to less than 1.5 feet to reduce interference with big game forage use and travel.

18. A variety of dispersed summer and fall recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads. Winter recreation activity will be permitted where it does not conflict with wintering big game.

19. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails unless closed under the terms of Guideline 18.

20. Generally, roads will be evaluated for seasonal or yearlong closure to motorized vehicle travel, except where checkerboard ownership patterns prevent unilateral closure of roads. In these cases, BLM may aggressively pursue the establishment of seasonal and yearlong cooperative road closures.

21. Management practices will follow the guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class III or IV, except in visually sensitive corridors identified in the Resource Management Plan.

22. These lands generally will remain in public ownership. However, exceptions may be permitted where exchanges would result in acquisition of lands with greater public values.

23. Available for consideration as utility corridor if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 7: NONCOMMERCIAL FOREST AND TPCC WITHDRAWN COMMERCIAL FOREST

Description

Management Area 7 includes noncommercial forest land as well as commercial forest land withdrawn from the timber production base as a result of Timber Production Capability Classification (see Appendix C). These areas may include cliffs, caves, rock outcrops, talus, and old-growth timber.

Management Goals

1. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

2. Provide for the harvest of wood products from noncommercial forest and timber production capability classification withdrawn commercial forest while maintaining or enhancing other woodland resource values.

3. Maintain old-growth, mature forest, and unique features for wildlife habitat.

4. Provide opportunities for a variety of dispersed recreation activities.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing will generally be permitted and may be regulated.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Lands are generally available for locatable minerals and will be regulated by the 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Management practices to maintain or improve wildlife habitat will be permitted.

5. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans and will be given consideration for the protection of water quality and riparian features. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

6. Noncommercial forest land may be considered for wood product harvest only when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

7. Firewood collection opportunities may be available, but will be limited by the absence of scheduled timber sales.

8. Construction of roads to access other management areas will be avoided if possible. Road construction in riparian zones will be avoided except where required to cross streams.

9. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads.

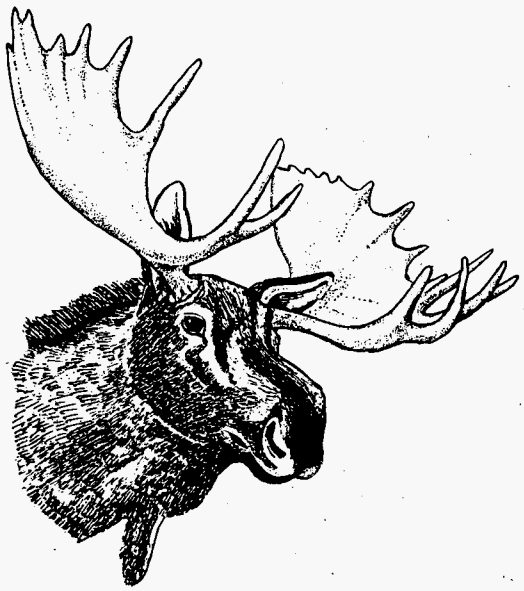
10. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

11. Seasonal or yearlong road closures will be permitted to achieve management goals for Management Area 7 or for adjacent management areas.

12. This area will be managed to meet the visual quality objective of Visual Resource Management Class II or III. Temporary departures from this visual quality objective may be acceptable when long-term visual values require such an action or essential road access into other management areas is impossible without this temporary departure. Visual quality rehabilitation measures will be taken where the visual quality objective is not being met.

13. These lands may be available for exchange or sale. All proposals will be evaluated.

14. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors if compatible with management goals.



MANAGEMENT AREA 8: AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

Description

Management Area 8 consists of portions of the resource area that are being recommended for wilderness designation. Each such area has been evaluated or studied under either Section 202 or 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Wilderness recommendations are based upon the wilderness review of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) listed in Table A-3.

All WSAs currently are subject to the BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review. Upon completion of this RMP, the 202 WSAs that are not recommended for wilderness classification will be released from the IMP constraints. All other WSAs will be subject to the IMP until Congress reviews the agency's recommendations. If any or all of these WSAs are not recommended suitable for wilderness, the area will be managed under the direction of one or more of the other management area prescriptions. These are identified in the map packet which accompanies this document.

Management Goals

Manage in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and USDI BLM Wilderness Management Policy. These include the following basic concepts: preserve wilderness character in an unimpaired condition, provide opportunities for public use and enjoyment, and allow nonconforming but accepted uses in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness character.

Management Guidelines

1. Following wilderness classification by Congress, a wilderness management plan will be written for each area and incorporated into the Garnet Resource Management Plan.

2. Livestock grazing, where already established, will be permitted to continue subject to the BLM wilderness management policy and grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100). Grazing systems and management practices will conform to BLM wilderness management policy.

3. Issuance of new oil and gas leases will be prohibited.

4. Subject to valid rights existing on December 31, 1983, mining will be prohibited and the area withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws. Mining operations permitted because of valid existing rights must be based upon an approved plan of operations and will be regulated under 43 CFR 3802 and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy.

5. Mineral material permits will not be issued.

TABLE A-3
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Number	Name	Size	Study Authority
MT074-150	Wales Creek WSA	11,580 acres	(Section 603)
MT074-151A	Hoodoo Mountain WSA	11,380 acres	(Section 603)
MT074-151B	Gallagher Creek 202 WSA	4,257 acres	(Section 202)
MT074-155	Quigg West 202 WSA	520 acres	(Section 202)

6. Herbicides and insecticides generally will not be used.

7. Fire management and control actions will be consistent with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy.

8. Commercial forest land is unavailable for timber production and is withdrawn from the sustained yield timber production base.

9. Noncommercial forest land is unavailable for wood product harvest.

10. Firewood collection is prohibited unless for incidental use associated with camping.

11. Visitor use will be managed to a level compatible with the wilderness resource to prevent loss of solitude or unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness qualities.

12. Trail construction may be permitted and will be accomplished with minimal disturbance of the natural environment.

13. Facilities and structures may be constructed to insure the protection of the wilderness values; however, facilities may not be constructed to provide convenience to recreationists.

14. Off-road vehicle use will not be permitted.

15. Management practices will follow the guidelines for the preservation of Visual Resource Management Class I, except for modifications caused by the operation of natural processes.

16. These lands will remain in public ownership.

17. These lands are unavailable for utility corridor development or facility siting.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Description

Management Area 9 consists of land distinguished by special, unique, or natural characteristics which require some form of special management and include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Management Goals

1. Goals for each area will depend on the special and unique features or values within that particular area.

2. Ultimate disposition for each area will maintain, enhance, or restore site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted to continue where already established.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Components of this management area may be evaluated for withdrawal from mineral entry.

5. Mineral material permits are not allowed where inconsistent with management goals.

6. Wildlife and fish habitat improvement projects may be permitted if consistent with management goals.

7. Commercial forest land is set aside.

8. Firewood collection will not be authorized unless consistent with management goals.

9. Roads will not be constructed for surface land management purposes unless needed to meet specific management goals. Roads will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data and where it is the next logical step in development of the mineral resource.

10. Developed recreation facilities, including campgrounds or picnic grounds, will not be constructed unless consistent with the primary goals of the area.

11. Trails and trailheads may be constructed or improved to increase accessibility, enhance dispersed recreation, and protect other resource values, if consistent with the goals of each special management area.

12. This area will generally be closed to motorized vehicle use. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

13. Road closures may be possible, depending upon management objectives.

14. Management practices will follow guidelines for applicable Visual Resource Management Class.

15. Generally, these lands will remain in public ownership.

16. These lands will be avoidance areas for utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA 10: DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

Description

Management Area 10 consists of existing and potential recreation use areas located throughout the resource area with developed, minimal, or no developed facilities to support a wide range of recreation activities.

Management Goals

1. Maintain and enhance the present variety and quality of recreation sites to contribute to public enjoyment of the resource area.

2. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions to maintain or improve recreational opportunities and scenic quality.

3. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. However there may be areas where grazing will not be permitted in order to meet management goals.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Generally, these lands are available for mineral location. Locatable minerals will be regulated by the 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Mineral material permits will generally not be issued.

5. Fire will not be used as a management tool in developed recreation sites.

6. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

7. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve recreation opportunities and scenic quality.

8. Noncommercial forest land is available for wood product harvest on an unregulated basis. Generally, harvest will only occur when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when recreation and visual management goals require silvicultural treatment to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

9. Firewood collection will not be authorized unless compatible with management goals.

10. Complete disposal of thinning or timber harvest slash will be required to maintain scenic quality and recreation opportunities.

11. Roads may be constructed as necessary to meet management goals.

12. Recreation developments may be permitted.

13. Management practices will follow guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class II or III.

14. Motorized vehicle use is restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

15. These lands generally will remain in public ownership. However, exceptions may be permitted where exchanges would result in acquisition of lands with greater public values or when lands can be better managed by another agency.

16. These lands will be avoidance areas for utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA 11: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES

Description

Management Area 11 consists of scattered sites within or adjacent to BLM-administered lands that are protected because of historical and cultural significance. These include Garnet, Coloma, Reynolds City, Copper Cliff, Blackfoot City, Beartown, Bearmouth, and other sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Management Goal

Insure that eligible historical and cultural sites are preserved and protected.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted where compatible with maintaining historical values. However, there may be areas where grazing will not be permitted in order to meet management goals.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

3. Withdrawals from mineral entry will be sought for these sites. Locatable minerals, where not withdrawn, will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Mineral material permits will not be issued.

5. Fire will not be used as a management tool.

6. Commercial forest land is set aside.

7. Noncommercial forest land is unavailable for wood product harvest.

8. Firewood collection will not be authorized unless compatible with management goals.

9. Road and trail construction will be permitted to provide public access and interpretive facilities to the extent that the historical and cultural values are not compromised.

10. Recreation will be limited to day use activities, unless provided for in special site direction. Recreation development is permitted, as necessary, for site protection and interpretation.

11. This area will generally be closed to motorized vehicle use. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

12. Management practices will follow guidelines for retention and partial retention under Visual Resource Management Classes II and III. Areas where the visual quality objective is not being met will be rehabilitated.

13. Fire suppression methods will be selected to minimize or eliminate the impact on historical site values.

14. These lands generally will remain in public ownership. However, exceptions may be permitted where exchanges would result in acquisition of lands with greater public values or when lands can be better managed by another agency.

15. These lands will be avoidance areas for utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA 12: VISUAL CORRIDOR

Description

Management Area 12 consists of lands with high visual sensitivity that are available for varying degrees of resource management. These lands are generally foreground and middle ground viewing areas from major travel and recreation corridors.

Management Goals

1. Maintain or improve visual quality for highly sensitive, scenic areas.

2. Under the principles of sustained yield, manage suitable and available commercial forest land with operational restrictions to maintain or improve visual qualities.

3. Provide for dispersed recreational use opportunities, wildlife habitat, and livestock use within the constraints of Goal 1.

4. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

Management Guidelines

1. Mitigation measures will be designed to protect the values associated with the highly sensitive areas as part of the environmental analysis process for projects within the foreground viewing area.

2. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted.

3. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations and special stipulations as needed.

4. Locatable minerals will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

5. Mineral material permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be issued if consistent with visual quality objectives.

6. Wildfire suppression methods that maintain visual quality will be selected whenever possible.

7. Prescribed burning will be permitted to the extent consistent with visual quality objectives.

8. Range and wildlife improvements are generally allowed. To the extent possible they should blend with the natural surroundings and follow natural breaks.

9. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

10. Timber management activities will be designed to maintain or improve visual qualities.

11. Noncommercial forest land may be considered for wood product harvest only when scheduled timber sales on adjacent commercial forest land provide an opportunity for sanitation or salvage, or when multiple use management goals require silvicultural treatment or habitat improvement to obtain desired stand structure and composition.

12. Firewood collection generally will be authorized. Authorization may be restricted as needed to achieve management goals.

13. Roads shall be concealed by vegetation, if possible, and follow natural landforms. Cut and fill areas will be kept to a minimum.

14. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads.

15. Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

16. Seasonal or yearlong road closures will be permitted to achieve management goals for Management Area 12 or for adjacent management areas.

17. Management practices will follow the guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class II or III.

18. These lands may be available for exchange or sale. All proposals will be evaluated.

19. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 13: NONFOREST HABITAT

Description

Management Area 13 is a grassland and shrubland complex with minor inclusions of forest. It includes wet meadows, dry parks, and open grassland and shrubland varying in size from a few to several hundred acres. These lands provide high wildlife and livestock forage values.

Management Goals

1. Manage nonforest habitat to maintain or enhance forage for livestock and wildlife.

2. Maintain or enhance adjoining timber stands for wildlife cover.

3. Maintain site productivity, water quality, and stream stability.

4. Provide opportunities for a variety of dispersed recreation activities in a natural setting.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing will generally be permitted. Where wildlife habitat is important, grazing will be regulated to maintain sufficient forage to meet established big game needs.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations.

3. These areas will be available for mineral production and will be regulated by 3809 Regulations. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Prescribed burning may be used to accomplish wildlife habitat and livestock forage objectives.

5. Riparian areas not designated Management Area 1 or Management Area 2 will be recognized in activity plans, and Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality and riparian features will be applied. The width of the riparian influence zone will be determined on a site-specific basis.

6. Generally, any forest inclusions in this management area are unsuitable and unavailable for timber production and are not included in the sustained yield timber production base.

7. Firewood collection opportunities generally will not be available on nonforest land.

8. Emphasis will be placed on locating roads away from meadows and parks.

9. A variety of dispersed recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by construction of trails and trailheads. Seasonal restrictions on dispersed recreation may be required to achieve wildlife management objectives.

10. Motorized vehicle use is restricted to open roads and trails. Exceptions may be permitted for snowmobile use.

11. Seasonal or yearlong road closures will be permitted to achieve management goals for Management Area 13 or adjacent management areas.

12. Management practices will follow guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class III or IV, except in visually sensitive areas identified in the Resource Management Plan.

13. These lands may be included in the full range of land tenure possibilities. All proposals will be evaluated.

14. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors if compatible with management goals.

MANAGEMENT AREA 14: MINERAL PRODUCTION AREA

Description

Management Area 14 consists of active or recently active mineral extraction and processing operations and the immediate surrounding vicinity. Total acreages in this management area will fluctuate as other mining operations are identified or old operations are reclaimed.

Management Goals

1. Manage or utilize other resources to a degree compatible with mineral production.

2. Restore water quality and rehabilitate site productivity and stream stability through reclamation.

Management Guidelines

1. Livestock grazing will be permitted, if consistent with management goals.

2. Oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations.

3. A Notice or Plan of Operations for proposed mining activities covered under 3809 Regulations will be developed. Mining activities will be guided by management goals.

4. Mining activities will be monitored for success in meeting State of Montana water quality standards.

5. Commercial forest land is set aside. These acres may be returned to the commercial forest land base when mining operations are completed.

6. Noncommercial forest land is available for wood product harvest.

7. Firewood collection generally will be allowed.

8. Dispersed recreation uses will be allowed.

9. Seasonal or yearlong road closures will be permitted to achieve management goals for adjacent management areas. Access will be available to mining claimants.

10. Management practices will follow guidelines for Visual Resource Management Class V.

11. These lands generally will remain in public ownership, unless mineral values warrant patenting.

12. These lands may be available for consideration as utility corridors.

TEXT CHANGES TO APPENDIX A

In response to Comment S, the first sentence of Management Guideline 13 on page 172 should read, "In order to optimize cover effectiveness harvest **units, except single or group tree selection,** and thinning units will generally be irregular in shape at 20 to 40 acres."

In response to Comment S, the first sentence of Management Guideline 13 on page 174 should read, "Timber sale units, **except single or group tree selection,** and thermal or security cover areas will generally be 20 to 30 acres in size."

Management Guideline 4 on page 175 should read as follows.

"Subject to valid rights existing on **the date of wilderness designation,** mining will be prohibited and the area withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws. Mining operations permitted because of valid existing rights must be based upon an approved plan of operations and will be regulated under 43 CFR **3809** and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy."