



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Final

Spokane District Office
East 4217 Main Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202

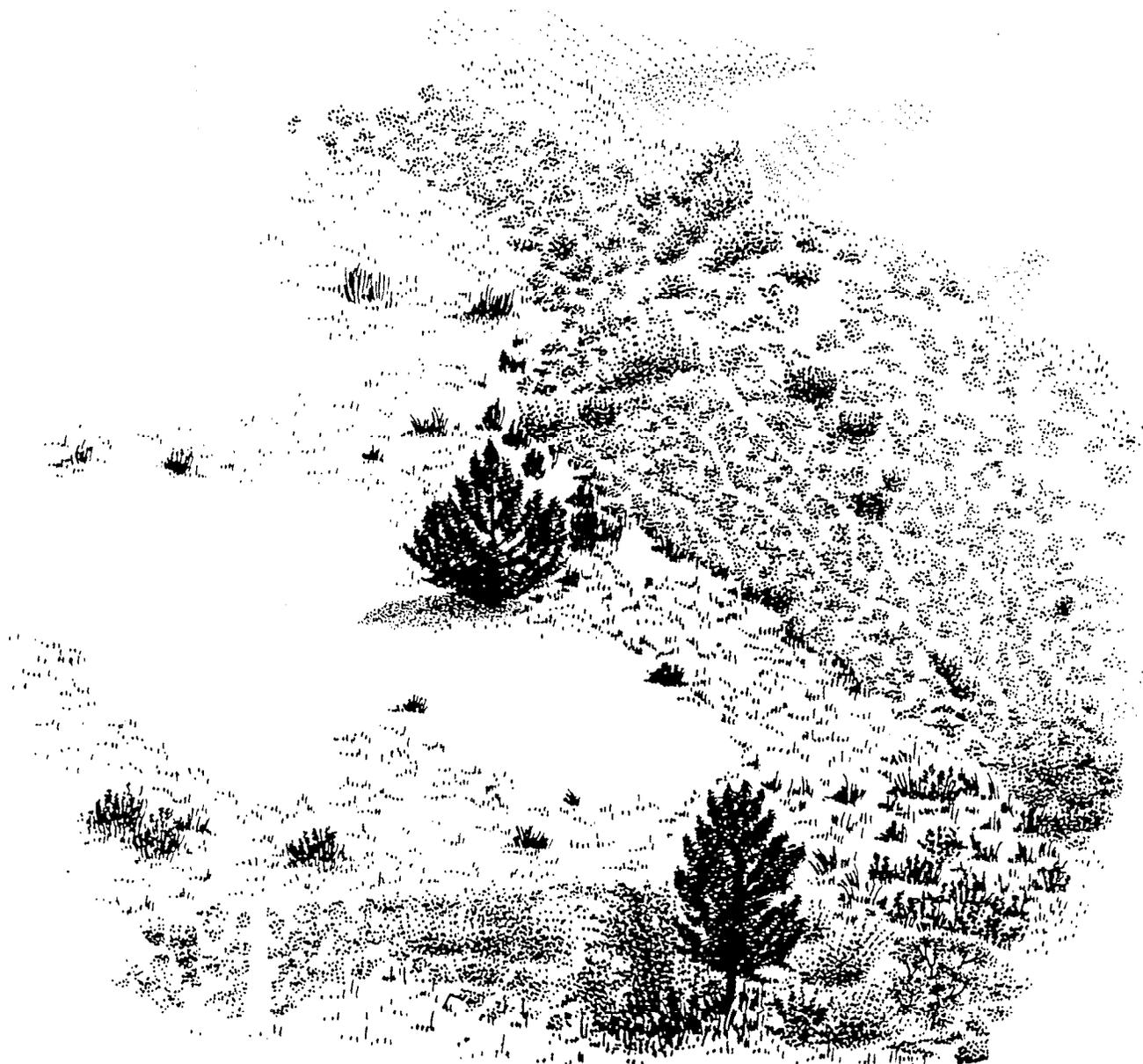
June 1993



Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental

Assessment for

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineer's application for land
withdrawal-Yakima Firing Center



As
natural resources.

of the Interior has use of our and providing enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.
and and works to Indian and in the in people.
under

U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-93/32+1792



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SPOKANE DISTRICT OFFICE
EAST 4217 MAIN
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202



IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 17, 1993

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Resource Management Plan Amendment Environmental Assessment for Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers Application for land withdrawal Yakima Firing Center. The Draft Plan Amendment was published in March 1993, and was followed by a 45-day public comment period. Changes based upon public comments have been incorporated into this document and all unchanged portions of the draft have been reprinted in order to portray those changes. The Bureau of Land Management has prepared this document in partial fulfillment of its responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If you wish the District Manager to consider your comments in the development of the decision record for this plan amendment, please submit them by July 17, 1993. Your comments should be sent to:

Spokane District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
East 4217 Main Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202

The proposed plan cannot be approved until after the Governor of Washington State has had an opportunity to review it to identify any inconsistencies and provide recommendations in writing to the BLM.

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM Director if you believe approval of the plan amendment would be in error (See 43 CFR 1 610.52.). Careful adherence to these guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in our planning process leading to this plan amendment may protest. If our records do not indicate that you had any involvement in any stage in the preparation of this plan amendment, your protest will be dismissed without further review.

A protesting party may raise only those issues which he or she submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues raised in the protest period should be directed to the District Manager for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate.

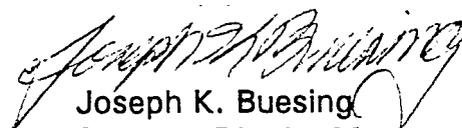
The 30-day period for filing a plan protest will close on July 17, 1993. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. Protests must be filed in writing to:

Director (760)
Bureau of Land Management
1849 "C" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

In order to be considered complete, your protests must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the plan amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record. Only those persons or organizations who participated in this planning process leading to the Resource Management Plan Amendment may protest.
5. A concise statement explaining, why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records, such as meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc. A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the Oregon/Washington State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

Thank you for your interest and participation.


Joseph K. Buesing
Spokane District Manager

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

FONSI: On the basis of _____ in _____ assessment and all other information available to me as summarized _____ is my _____ this proposed decision does _____ a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental _____ is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Rationale: Based on _____ in _____ assessment and _____ as a result of the land withdrawal would be _____ one (1) because of the _____ mitigation lands. Wildlife _____ the change in land use would also be partially _____ are acquired and managed accordingly.

Under alternative two (2), no mitigation lands would be acquired. _____ in recreation uses occurring on _____ lands that are incompatible with the existing resources. Wildlife _____ as a result of _____ be slow in recovering.

Under alternative three (3), recreation use would be practically eliminated due to the loss of public access. As a result, _____ to recreation would be similar in intensity and effect as those described for alternative two (2). _____ wildlife _____ be _____ of _____ transformation, resulting from _____ in the area, could be severe to _____ species. _____ of mitigation lands as described in Alternative 1

In _____ following considerations also indicate that _____ not be _____ from the proposed decision.

_____ did not reveal _____ that _____ an _____ resources.

_____ did not reveal any significant adverse _____ society as a whole, the _____ affected _____ locality.

_____ not be affected.

None of _____ or local law requirements regarding flood plain, wild and _____ unique _____ known paleontological resources within the area.

None of the important and relevant

in cumulative significant of the areas involved.

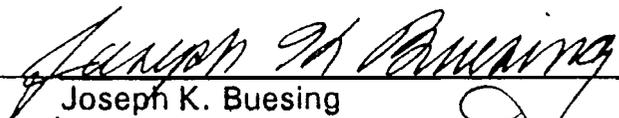
There known cultural alternatives.

that would be affected of the

None of or that Act of 1973.

be critical threatened species Species

There known inconsistencies natural resource



Joseph K. Buesing
District e District

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CHAPTER I - PURPOSE AND NEED

Introduction:

The Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) is to address the U.S. Department of Corps of lands as part of an overall expansion of Spokane District RMP area as leasable and range. RMP did not specifically mention or requested withdrawal, nor is a this with objectives of the plan. amendment is to Army's withdrawal application. The included in this document contained in interim withdrawal).

Planning Area:

The subject public lands are located in in extending River for miles and south from to boundary of There are 9,745.82 acres of public land included in the withdrawal application; 6,655.02 acres are minerals and 3,090.80 acres are private (See maps 1 & 2)

Background:

On May 18, 1992, of the Army, Seattle District Corps of Engineers filed an application with the Bureau of Land

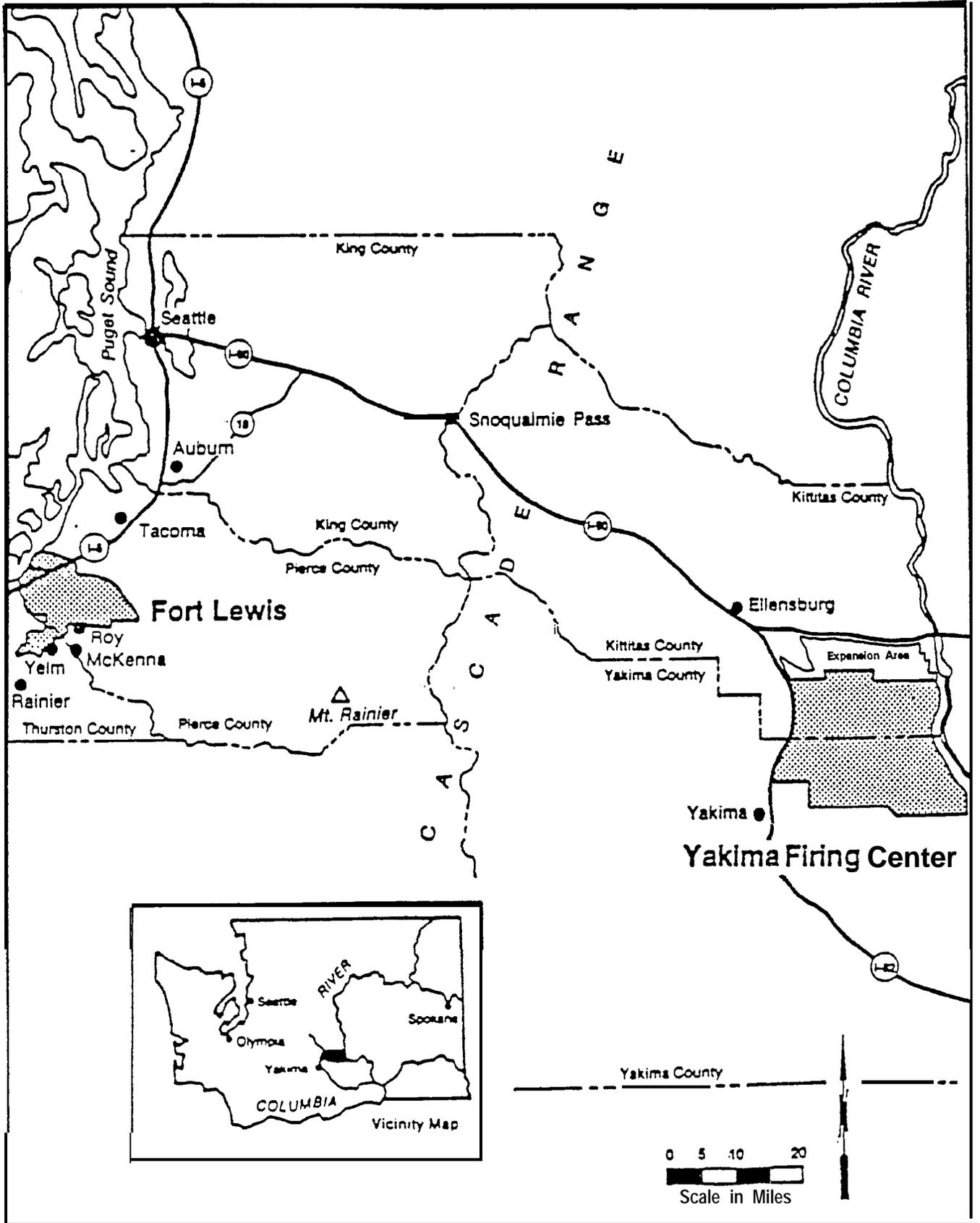
State acres of public lands for to U.S. the Army, Corps of Engineers, has in part as to the lands from the laws. The public lands involved in this withdrawal will remain open to However, they would still be closed sale, location, and entry land laws, including the U.S. U.S.C.

Previous in June 1987, of the Army prepared available for public comment a Impact Statement (DEIS) on of 63,000 acres of land for

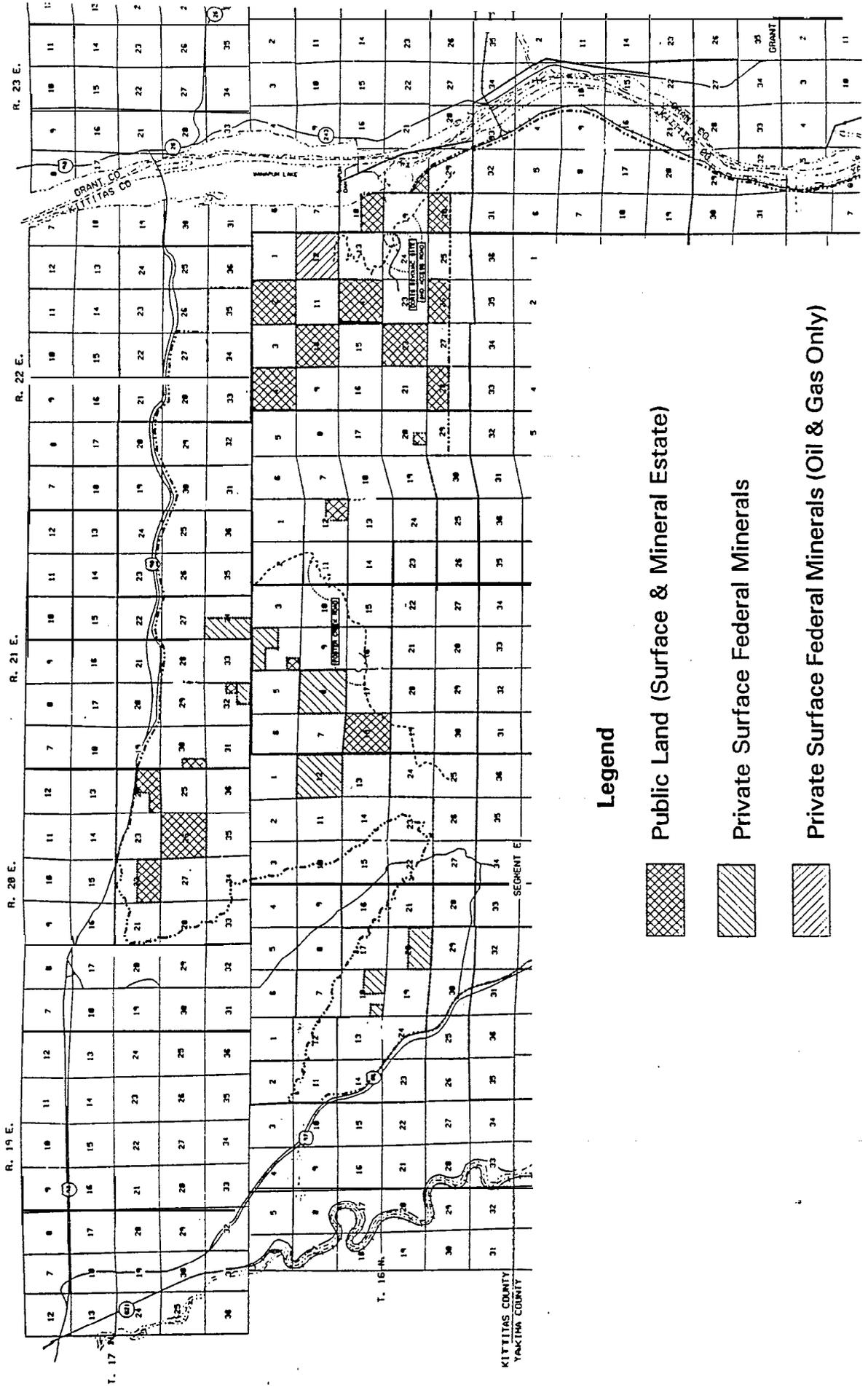
withdrawal is part. The review and comment period for this document ended on During meetings were held to explain the DEIS and to receive comments. Over 300 received in response to the DEIS. The Final EIS was subsequently prepared and to for comment 1, 1991. Over 90 received before the end of period. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Army's approved on July

District BLM recently completed Amendment EIS that addressed fluid in Eastern Washington. identified these public lands as being in a high potential area and as for

Map 1 - General Location



Map 2 - Yakima Firing Center Expansion Area



Planning Process:

The procedure for preparing same interrelated steps that were required District RMP.

The Management Plan issued from process will result in a recommendation from BLM

in total or in is the application in total or in part, the State Director will request a voluntary cancellation of the application in total or as to If the such findings and

within 30 days from of the receipt of such notification, objections in writing and BLM director and recommendation.

Planning Criteria:

The serves various following: guide resource an the management situation analysis, aid in formulating alternatives, and highlight factors to be considered in evaluating alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative. Planning plan amendment effort are listed below:

- will be used. No new inventories will be conducted.
- Give consideration to oil leasing in the Spokane District Resource Management Plan

Statement for this area.

- Consider be

responsible with Historic Preservation Act as amended in all the withdrawal has been completed.

- Consider of be responsible for complying with the 1973 as amended in all the withdrawal has been completed.
- differences in policy between in of rare, endangered species.

Planning Issues:

The issues included in developed as a result of public response initial RMP amendment, which October 8, also derived obtained in Resource Management Plan Statement of included this area.

Mineral Resources:

- BLM's policy has been to of With in administrative authority to the Department of should (i.e. locatable, saleable, and in the proposed expansion area be managed?

- Should closed sale, location and entry under the general land laws, including ch.2)?

- Should the resources

be leased as per identified in the Management Plan Amendment of 1992?

Recreation Resources:

- Most of the land available for recreation in Basin is under private activities are either dependent upon permitted access lands, public lands where Therefore, how opportunities foregone as a result of this withdrawal be mitigated?

Other Issues Considered:

- responsible with the 1973, as obligation pertains to species that are federally listed species for federal or the Department of the Army have a written candidate and state listed and candidate species as well. A biological to sage grouse, Swainson's falcon and Columbia milkvetch, Hoover's and Hoover's tauschia resulting at this consultation Proposed Northern and Eastern Acquisition Expansion Kittitas and

held in May The peregrine falcon listed as endangered, and the (Haliaeetus listed as threatened in the State of Washington, of This the acquisition and operation northerly expansion area is not adversely affect the

the Section 7 consultation as Appendix I in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Land Acquisition-Yakima Washington. The is contained in the Draft EIS as appendix B). the information contained in these reports and discussions with Department of Game Biologists and Biologists U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Threatened Species from this action is not believed to be

No other issues

Interagency Coordination:

During development of this RMP county plans within the planning area assure with held of Wildlife and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contacts and will be made throughout the planning process.

This type of the Bureau and and local governments and Indian tribes is Bureau and by several cooperative agreements or memorandums of understanding.

CHAPTER 2 - ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Introduction:

This chapter presents considered by a summary of the impacts of these alternatives. of alternatives is

of Decision compiled by which addresses expansion project and includes public Army's Record of Decision for the proposed expansion was approved on July A three alternatives are presented discussion and analysis. These alternatives are considered reasonable and practical. As mentioned above, the no is with the provisions of Policy Act.

Since 92,000 acres of public land public use in eastern Washington. The withdrawals were basically purposes (65,000 acres, Department of Reservation; 27,000 acres, Department of the Along with these withdrawals over 533,800 acres land were to compliment or Reservation 299,800 acres, YFC 234,000 the affects of these withdrawals and with the

dramatic increase in agricultural development in the Columbia cumulative impacts habitat as a reduction of the It also caused a reduction in the availability of land and mineral development.

Alternative One: (The Preferred Alternative)

Under Resource Management Plan would be amended processing of the Army's a public lands and public (including private surface/federal minerals) within the expansion area. The subject lands would be removed sale, location and entry land laws, including Ch. 2). However, applications and offers would be permitted. This the acquire mitigation lands for recreation and use purposes to offset the effects of the withdrawal.

Alternative Two: (Department of the Army's Proposal)

Under Resource Management Plan would be amended of the Army's application as filed. (No lands would be acquired

Alternative Three: (No Action Alternative)

This alternative
the Under
the Management Plan
would not be amended to
of the Army's withdrawal application.

lands be withdrawn for a specific
use, and would to be open
to the full range of public land laws,
including the mining and mineral leasing
laws. Activities such as livestock grazing,
is
available), and would be
permitted.



CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

This [redacted] a [redacted] of [redacted] be affected [redacted] amendment and a description [redacted] RMP decisions. A [redacted] information has been taken from the Army's Final EIS for [redacted] Proposed Land Acquisition [redacted] the Record of Decision (ROD) for [redacted] More detailed information is [redacted] request from [redacted] Spokane District or [redacted] office.

Existing Resource Management Plan Decisions:

The 1985 [redacted] Management Plan (page 70 Alternative B Preferred Alternative) [redacted] managing the public lands in the proposed expansion area as follows:

Minerals Management: Emphasize the [redacted] and [redacted] oil [redacted] resources and Gas Leasing System. Manage other resource activities in a manner [redacted] conflicts with oil [redacted] operations.

Grazing Management: Develop a Coordinated Resource Management Plan [redacted] programs.

[redacted] be limited to the following: establishing livestock use levels, wildlife management, managing ORV use and rock collecting [redacted] *. Acquire 1,500 acres of State [redacted] in [redacted] C1 allotments [redacted] to [redacted] management and multiple [redacted]

use of the management area.
Recreation Management: Restrict ORV use [redacted] limit [redacted] in other areas to [redacted] and trails. [redacted] Acquire [redacted] access through easement acquisition or land exchange to [redacted] for recreational [redacted] rockhounding [redacted] in [redacted] area.

Wildlife Habitat Management: Protect and improve [redacted] habitat along [redacted] (1 mile) and six miles of its [redacted] tributaries.

Soil and Water Management: Minimize [redacted] surface [redacted] in [redacted]

Affected Resources:

Soils:

[redacted] of [redacted] lands [redacted] well [redacted] silt loams and clay [redacted] are derived from [redacted] deposits [redacted] overlying [redacted] particular [redacted] bedrock is mapped as the Saddle Mountain unit of [redacted] Basalt, which is the [redacted] of [redacted] River basalt [redacted] flood basalt flow is generally [redacted] interbedded with [redacted] sandstone, [redacted] or conglomerate, as well as beds of diatomite.

Minerals:

[redacted] in the [redacted] the [redacted] natural gas, coal, diatomite, basalt, sand and [redacted] and pumicite. Petrified [redacted] wood is also [redacted] in this area. The likelihood of the [redacted] any [redacted] locatable minerals, metallic [redacted] as [redacted] and silver, is [redacted]

Previous of lands in the vicinity have shown that natural gas, a leasable mineral, has a high potential based on minimal direct evidence, and basalt, a salable mineral, has a high potential based on direct potential is low). reports have noted that listed have either low based on direct and indirect evidence. The will not be known for the public lands in area until the area is completed.

Water:

on lands include a portion of Johnson Creek and The BLM has also installed four wildlife watering cisterns) on lands, which provide for the wildlife use. The portion of Johnson Creek located on land is perennial, and has a quality and fisheries.

Vegetation:

Vegetation on lands included within area can be described as sagebrush-steppe. The predominant species include bluebunch wheatgrass, and species include basin wildrye, Idaho fescue, stiff sage, rabbit balsamroot, among others. are found along and in areas near Doris. (See

There known occurrences of plant lands included in the withdrawal

request; however, a is lacking. Federal candidate species found in area desert parsley and Hoover's tauschia. of are also state-proposed threatened. Besides are endangered, sensitive and monitor plants that possibly may be found in the expansion area and could be present on the public lands.

Besides of data on individual species, the also not been evaluated for plant community resource are several ecosystem elements in Basin Providence listed in the Washington Heritage Plan may be found on is needed in order to preserve biodiversity in

Wildlife Habitat:

Wildlife using lands within the expansion area include a aquatic, terrestrial and In general, Johnson Creek and springs are of prime wildlife and contribute species aquatic species is a population trout that use the perennial portion of Johnson of which is located on public have been noted in the lower portion of Johnson Creek, do as far as land due to and and are found within the general area of expansion. Species potentially public lands include

sheep, coyote, beaver,
whitetail hare, blacktail hare, cottontail
yellow-bellied marmot,

mouse, bushytail woodrat,
shrews, and voles. Bird species include a
variety of and songbirds,
among others. Examples
California
partridge, owls,

and ferruginous
hawks, osprey,
northern

Representative sage
sparrow.

Several of list are
regarded as species of concern. Examples
include which is federally
listed as threatened; and others such as the
prairie and Swainson's
hawk, and sagegrouse, which are either
candidates for considered
state sensitive.

Cultural Resources:

of public lands (as well
as other lands) in area for
cultural resources are incomplete.

assessed
of lands, and
sites.

Types of sites
rock cairns.

Historic resources public lands
include several portions of the abandoned
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Pacific
which
in 1910. Approximately three and one-half

miles of are located on public
in the expansion area.

Recreation:

Recreational uses of lands
include of off-road
vehicles,
camping, bird watching, horse-back riding
and The Washington State
Recreation Commission's
(WSPRC) John Wayne trail,

bed,
adjoins five parcels of BLM, providing access
via permit across intervening
portions of the
lands). use estimates range
between 400 - 500
the first year of use. roads
of and
one additional BLM parcel the
Columbia River.

On off-
road vehicle been conducted
the Stump
Jumpers Motorcycle Club of
2,000 - 3,000

increase in incidental use of lands
a few weeks event and for a
few

Land Status:

the BLM master title
surface and mineral
estate acres of lands within the
area. The U.S. owns an
additional 3,090.80 acres of minerals
surface
lands. All of the U.S. owned land in the
expansion area is jurisdiction of
the BLM. Of
under a portion

only and a portion embraces gas resources.

No. 2114 (Project licensee is the Public No. 2 of Grant County).

Rights-of-way and existing water power lands are listed below. Both the R/W's and the designations are existing which the use will be subject to:

Two oil existed on portions of the land (WAOR 42127 and WAOR 40386). The former lease was terminated on July 1, 1992, and the latter on August 1, 1992. Grazing the subject lands are Howard Clerf (GR 0799) and J.S. Paul (GR 0797). Two year cancellation notices were sent to both lessees on July A total of 1,024 AUM's are involved in leases. According to regulation, they will retain their grazing privileges for a full two mining claims on the lands other affect these lands.

WAOR 45722 - R/W grant for transmission line and to Power and Light Company.

WAOR 146 - R/W LD 513) for to Bonneville Power Administration.

WAOR 4741 - R/W grant for transmission to Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company.

WAOR 8634 - R/W grant for transmission to & Light Company.

WAW 05045 - R/W LD 513) for transmission line and access to Administration.

by under Revised Statute of County roads that cross portions of lands.

Power 257 Power Site Classification No. 349 Power Site Classification No. 405

Economics:

Payments of taxes (PILT) BLM annually for land located within the proposed expansion area.

CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Introduction:

This chapter describes consequences that implementing each of with respects to impacts as they relate to the land made in the Management Plan and to the specific resources in general.

Existing Resource Management Plan Decisions:

Under Alternative One Alternative), activities under the general mining laws would not be permitted withdrawn public lands would for mineral as oil and gas. The acquisition of lands would result in grazing in the Johnson Creek area. The specific changes would include a likely change in and of a need a Coordinated Resource Management Plan. exchanges would not be pursued. Recreation off-road or off-highway and activities would be foregone. The acquisition of mitigation lands some of relative to recreation by improving opportunities elsewhere. Riparian along Johnson Creek and its tributaries be implemented.

Under (Proposed

Withdrawal), the be similar to in alternative one above except that the mitigation lands be realized.

Under Alternative Three (No Action) the District the 1985 RMP. The exploration and development of general mining laws would be continue. in access to the and

Since the BLM administrative access, and improve wildlife habitat Creek and its Livestock grazing would be because of the restriction in of be incorporated into grazing systems/plans prepared for the adjacent Dept. of Army lands.

Affected Resources

Soils:

Under Alternative 1 to soil and geologic resources would be similar in intensity and those described in page 4-5 of Chapter 4 of the Final Environmental

Acquisition Land 38 of Chapter BLM's Spokane RMPA/EIS. Both of these that the of the

YFC would be vehicular traffic associated maneuvers and/or by associated with oil and gas exploratory and development work. These result increase in soil compaction and of Soil

compaction and erosion would increase runoff erosion, and sediment delivery such as Johnson be caused construction and use of roads and trails, and other related would be short from two to three growing seasons following reclamation.

Under Alternative 2 resources would be soil that described Alternative 3 (No Action), since 3, military maneuvers would

Minerals:

Under all mineral resources would focus on the leasing and natural coal-bed as oil and carbon dioxide are not likely to be present in any significant occurs, result in and irretrievable loss of those resources that are extracted from The extent of greatly depending on and development

Under Alternatives 1 & 2 there would be no impact relative to of locatable and resources, such as zinc, gravel, because all minerals would be withdrawn On the contrary, there would economic of the withdrawal either.

Under alternative 3, there would be a low likelihood of extraction of any mineral

materials area due to available sources in other areas.

Water:

Under Alternatives 1 and 2 the impact to and quantity would be as described in the YFCPLA 4-4 under Water Quality and described in the RMPA/EIS Resources.

indicates: "Increased vehicular traffic in vicinity of streambeds, as well as in turbidity and

streambeds and the surrounding riparian vegetation. There would be increases in sedimentation of Creek and its tributaries, due activity in the watershed." The RMPA/EIS indicates: "There would be a decrease in activity due to surface runoff and increased sedimentation. "Long-term sediment increases would be minor and directly associated with active well sites flows from seismic or charges, thumpers, etc. could occur if these activities are within close in reduced flows loss of all springs and wells. flows could be increased.

The event of either and impacts."

Under Alternative 3, be similar to those described in the RMPA/EIS Water Resources 34 oil leasing operations. maneuvers pertain.

Vegetation:

Under Alternatives 1, and the vegetation resource would described in the YFCPLA document under 4-7.

Primary loss of vegetation due to trampling by wheeled and tracked vehicles, an of noxious traffic, and

("Because of the type of activity occurring there are more at YFC than on These impacts will occur in and upland areas. Overall, there will be a loss in due of maneuver corridors and trails. Because of the of sagebrush in the expansion area, and its inability after fire, wildfires could

Consequently, occur in the native with an increase in of perennial and and forbs.

Generally to endangered plant species would be minimal due to the adherence Act and to of the Army's actions on federal candidate and state listed and candidate species as well. However, the YFCPLA document does impacts to tauschia, and Hoover's desert parsley (page 4-9). It is noted that vehicle traffic may have a direct adverse affect first two species, but little is their response Two studies suggest that populations of Columbia milkvetch favorably to disturbance for the short term, with a later crash in population latter species,

because of its requirements, be it is present in is also unknown whether there would be any secondary impacts to the is an increase of insect seed predators affecting seed set in disturbed areas of Columbia milkvetch.

Under Alternative 3 the be as described in the 35. "Vegetative by and gas leasing and 10-15 years to recover completely. Seismic lines may become ORV routes and resulting in permanent loss of vegetation in limited areas. be expected during the development stages. Although considered these impacts are not expected to significantly affect environment."

Wildlife:

The potential impacts to wildlife are addressed in the Army's YFCPLA document on pages 4-10. In summary, under Alternatives 1, indirect impacts will arise of the existing vegetation, and will be wildlife by Army maneuvers (the on the vegetation and are discussed cause a decrease in both the numbers and diversity of increases in traffic, road construction and wildfire would cause an increase in the sedimentation and exposure of the Johnson bed, resulting in a lowered water of the stream. As

the Army is (ARPA). The Army is and with its the Army has completed Act (as is and engaging in Section 7 consultation with the FWS about the Army is sites. Because the and (see same law as BLM, Appendix 1 of the A of the administration of is in lands through withdrawal to NHPA review. Appendix B of the draft EIS/YFCPLA.

to and those proposed for State listing would be minimal due to to the Endangered Species Act and to of of the Army's actions on Federal candidate and State listed and candidate species as well.

Under Alternative 3 be as described in the RMPA/EIS 37. "Direct losses to wildlife be limited to areas be lines, drill pads. Oil and gas leasing and operations result in a loss of for some impacts could be both and long of habitat alteration."

Cultural Resources:

Because of of surface disturbance to lands by the Army's maintenance Alternatives 1, the impacts or the potential impacts are discussed in detail in the YFCPLA document (pages 4- BLM administration, any undertaking that could have an effect on cultural resources is subject to the provisions of Preservation Act the Archaeological Resources Protection Act

Recreation:

Under Alternative 2 another 6300 acres of public land would be removed from wildlife based recreation. Under Alternative 1 this effect would be mitigated of other to the public.

Under Alternatives 1 and following in & Socioeconomic 4-1 use of corridor would also be available on a permit basis be relocated to the and would be made round. be on a permit basis as training allows. Recreational use of areas be open to ORVs. However, for profit, may be requested and would be considered on a case by case basis. The that apply to uses would be applied to Rock not be permitted in area, however, is requesting permission to make specific areas of the YFC available for

Except for the activities authorized by permits such as hunting, and of as

be eliminated from the public lands within the YFC expansion area. Indirect activities associated with the that has been occurring annually for the would be eliminated. Precluding these activities could result in a recreation use other suited to forms of recreation, or elimination of some forms of specific individuals.

Under Alternative 3, except for the Department of the Army permit as indicated above, recreation activities would be due access.

Land Use:

Under Alternatives 1 & 2, land uses and mineral primarily on livestock other uses of rights-of-way and water power withdrawals, will continue and the Army's use of the lands will be subject to them. The exception may be held the Boylston and the lands are under Army control, the county roads.

The two existing grazing lessees will lose their grazing privileges in approximately two years time. Together, they provide 1024 of The impact on the land be negligible.

Under Alternative 3, the effective use of the public be rendered impossible prior to the end of the two years, because

the Army is in of acquiring the private lands that adjoin and provide access to the public lands, The permanent loss of privileges is a definite impact, amount of acreage involved. However, even if the public lands were not withdrawn and the leases continued, the lessees would have difficulty lands Army's planned acquisition and control of the adjacent checkerboarded private Army has stated that they will offer similar 5 livestock grazing leases for the expansion area lands as they currently do for the lands within the existing YFC boundary. However, there is no guarantee that the existing lessees will be able a lease from the use of the public be acceptable if are business.

Economics:

Under Alternatives 1 the annual PILT payments of BLM would cease as a result of the withdrawal. PILT not be affected under Alternative 3.

CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Introduction

This document was an interdisciplinary team of BLM's Wenatchee Spokane District. of the used to develop this RMPA participation, and review and updating of resource information. The actual this amendment began in September of 1992. Consultation and coordination with a number of and individuals occurred in various this planning process.

Public Participation

A in the Federal Register on August commencement of a 30-day scoping period and the start up of process, at that time of a to be conducted on in Ellensburg, discuss this proposal. A draft Plan was a 45-day public comment period beginning 1993. Ten responses were received. A summary of their comments, and BLM responses is included in the Appendix.

Agencies Groups and Individuals Consulted

The with and/or received the following:

Federal Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Mines
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Department of the Army
Yakima

State and Local Governments

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State

Copies of the draft sent to those as well as and below:

Government Agencies

Federal

U.S. Bureau of Indian affairs
U.S.
U.S. National Park Service
U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

State

Office of the Governor
Office of of State
Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington State Conservation Commission
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Fisheries

Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Division of Geology and Earth Resources
Washington
Washington State Library

Washington State Recreation
 Commission

Washington State Superintendent of Public
 Instruction

Washington State Treasurer

County

Benton County Planning Department
 Benton County Board of Commissioners
 Grant County Planning Department
 Grant County Board of Commissioners
 Planning Department
 Board of Commissioners
 Yakima County Planning Department
 Yakima County Board of Commissioners

Congressional

U.S. Murray
 U.S. Senator Slade Gorton
 U.S. Representative Maria Cantwell,
 District 1
 U.S. B. Swift,
 District 2
 U.S. Unsoeld,
 District 3
 U.S. Representative Jay Inslee, District 4
 U.S. Foley,
 District 5
 U.S. Representative Norman O. Dicks,
 District 6
 U.S.
 District 7
 U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn,
 District 8
 U.S. Kreidler,
 District 9

E. West, District 6
 Senator Scott Barr, District 7
 Senator Jim Jesernig, District 8
 Senator Eugene District 9
 L. Sellar, District 12
 13
 Senator Alex District 14
 Senator Irv Newhouse, District 15
 H. Loveland, District 16
 Senator Dean Sutherland, District 17
 Representative 3
 3
 Representative George Orr,
 Padden,
 District 6
 District 6
 District 7
 Representative Bob 7
 8
 Representative Lane Bray, District 8
 Representative Mark G. Schoesler, District 9
 Representative Larry Sheahan, District 9
 District 12
 Representative Dale Foreman, District 12
 District 13
 Representative Mick Hansen, District 13
 L. Edmondson,
 District 14
 Representative Dave Lemmon, District 14
 Representative Margaret Rayburn,
 District 15
 Representative Barbara Lisk, District 15
 District 16
 Representative Dave 16
 Peery, District 17
 Representative Holly Myers, District 17

Canadian Agencies
 International

Lands,
 Columbia

State Legislature
 Senator Marilyn Rasmussen, District 2
 Senator John A. Moyer, District 3
 Senator Bob McCaslin,
 Drew, District 5

List of Preparers

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Brent BLM

Gary Yeager, Env. Coord.

Recreation Planner, BLM

Realty Specialist, BLM

Wenatchee

Manager, BLM

Appendix

Summary of Comments

Copies of the draft plan sent 800 individuals, groups, and expressed an interest in the use and management of the BLM administered land in eastern Washington.

Summary of Comments and Responses

both individuals and organizations. A list of the respondents and responses comments follows.

Comment letters

1. Conservation Committee of Washington
2. Mrs. E. Zahan, of Port Ludlow, Washington.
3. Office of
4. of Washington Department Division.
5. Mr. Michael L. Estes, of Richland Rod & Gun Washington.
6. Mr. Ray L. Wondercheck, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service,

7. D. Director, Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, Spokane, Washington.

8. P. Spokane, Washington.

9. Mr. President, Kittitas Ellensburg, Washington.

10. Mr. Jeff Haas, of Wildlife Olympia, Washington.

Summary of Comments and Responses

1. Comment - What does a land withdrawal involve?

Response - This land withdrawal would result in a land management the Bureau of Land the Department of the Army. The withdrawal would

use to a use purpose. In this case for military training purposes.

2. Comment - Who is responsible for land withdrawal is completed.

Response - The Department of the Army would be responsible for the public land after the withdrawal.

3. Comment - What does six miles of Johnson habitat mean?

Response - This statement refers to the made in the Spokane District Resource Management Plan. In this plan, emphasis would be made to minimize disturbance to riparian areas by limiting disturbance to stream banks and riparian as the fences to exclude livestock or ORVs.

4. Comment - What management policies will all of to ensure that species now dependent upon the area do not in the State of Washington because of loss of habitat.

Response - and those proposed for State be minimal due to the adherence Act and of the the Army's actions on federal candidate and state candidate species as well. The text amended to indicate this point. See entitled "Wildlife" 15 of Chapter 4 "Environmental Consequences."

5. Comment - Eliminate mechanized recreation.

Response - Under Alternative 3 mechanized recreation would be designated trails. Under Alternatives 1 ORV use would be

6. Comment - We One with emphasis on the mitigation lands wildlife and

Response - The of wildlife habitat of

recreation land is an in Basin. This was the reason for of mitigation lands into one of the alternatives.

7. Comment - Evaluate replacement lands recreational as well as their wildlife potential.

Response - Any lands that may be acquired as a result of this plan amendment will be evaluated for both wildlife habitat, recreation potential and general management opportunities.

8. Comment - If land transactions were to occur in concern was expressed that PILT should be at a minimum equal to and stay equal revenues generated from now and in the future.

Response - In PILT exceed \$0.75 of land within of the county. be reduced of certain Federal land payments that were unit of government in the year. Fees such as those received from federal grazing leases of payments that would reduce the PILT entitlements.

9. Comment - opposed to the expansion of and Alternative 3, No Action.

Response - The Department of is in the process of acquiring all of land lands identified in this plan amendment. (See maps 1 & 2.) This in itself will preclude or use of lands

10. **Comment** - public lands proposed located within the Center's Northern Expansion Area, and were in the that was prepared for the proposed land acquisition?

Response - public lands are located within They were addressed on a general basis in the the Center's proposed land land withdrawal specifically considered in BLM's existing Resource Management Plan. Therefore, a resource management plan amendment and environmental assessment was needed to address of of withdrawal.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SPOKANE DISTRICT OFFICE
EAST 4217 MAIN AVENUE
SPOKANE < WASHINGTON 99202
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
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