MANAGEMENT AREA 7 - ALBION - MODERATE

This management area (See Map 8) consists of 21,300 acres scattered along the west, north and east sides of the Albion Mountain Range. The area is high foothill country with an elevation range of 5,200 to 6,600 feet. Vegetation is predominantly big and low sagebrush on the east and west side of the unit with some fir, aspen and mountain brush in the northern portion of the area. Woodland habitat, primarily juniper, occurs on 1,626 acres. Approximately four miles of streams and a number of springs provide nine acres of wetland/riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife. Those areas of public land interspersed among dryland wheat farms provide quality habitat for Hungarian partridge. Sage grouse habitat is found on 15,629 acres of the area with 954 acres of winter habitat and 222 acres of brood-rearing habitat. Deer winter range totals approximately 3,816 acres. Public land in this area provides crucial habitat for unimpeded deer migration from higher summer range on the National Forest onto lower winter habitat on public lands in surrounding management areas. Thirty livestock grazing allotments are within the management area. Portions of this management area are popular with upland game hunters who seek Hungarian partridge and sage grouse.

Resource Management Objectives:

A. Maintain or improve 1,787 acres of crucial deer winter range, 954 acres of sage grouse winter habitat, and 222 acres of sage grouse brood-rearing habitat. (See Map 8)

B. Provide forage for the following mule deer by season of use: 444 spring; 444 summer; 444 fall; and 839 winter.

C. Improve 15,246 acres of poor and fair condition rangeland to good.

D. Provide 3,646 AUMs of forage for livestock (See Appendix C).

E. Transfer 720 acres out of federal ownership: 240 acres via private exchange and 480 acres via sale or other disposal method (See Map 19).

Required Actions:

A. Energy Resources

Open to leasing subject to no exploration or development in crucial deer winter range December 1 through March 31 and in sage grouse strutting/brooding-rearing habitat from April 1 through June 15.

B. Fire Management

Maximum suppression. Prescribed burning may be utilized on larger blocks of public land to improve rangeland conditions or wildlife habitat.

C. Grazing Management

Initial livestock use level is 2,729 AUMs (See Appendix C). Treat

5,748 acres (See Map 8) of rangeland to increase livestock forage production by 917 AUMs.

D. Lands

Maintain legal access to accommodate public use and agency management when disposing of transfer lands.

E. Minerals

Open to mining and mineral leasing/sale.

F. Motorized Vehicle Management

Open to wheeled vehicles. Snowmobiles limited to existing roads and trails.

G. Wildlife

Provide 1,297 AUMs of forage for mule deer (See Appendix D). The following wildlife guidelines as identified in Appendix B, page 82 are applicable to this management area: 2a; 5a-e; 6a-f; 8a-d,g,j,k; 9b-g; 11a-f.

H. Woodland Products

Harvest will be allowed so long as it does not remove more than 20% of woodland cover on 4,062 acres within the deer migration routes.

I. Activity Plans

Prepare six Allotment Management Plans (See Map 18):

- Callahan
- Churchill-Matthews
- Conner Creek
- South Conner
- Middle Hill
- Martin-Goose Creek

Prepare three Coordinated Resource Management Plans (See Map 18):

- Lunch Creek
- Grape Creek
- Cove

Prepare a Habitat Management Plan.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8 - CITY OF ROCKS - MODERATE

Totaling 17,877 acres of public land, this unit consists (See Map9) of the City of Rocks and the surrounding mountains at the southern end of the Albion Range. Elevation ranges from 5,280 feet along the eastern edge of the unit to over 7,700 feet on its highest peak. The area is unique in that it contains the largest concentration of pinyon pine in Idaho. A limited amount of non-commercial Christmas tree cutting is presently allowed (Sub Area 8a). Other vegetation types in the area include juniper, big sagebrush and crested wheatgrass seedings. Mixed pinyon pine/juniper woodlands occur on 11,437 acres in the unit. Nearly 2,512 acres have soils with high present erosion. Approximately 1.3 miles of streams and a number of springs provide five acres of wetland/riparian habitat. Some 11,818 acres of sage grouse habitat occur in the area. An important deer migration route crosses the western portion of the unit, with 9,277 areas identified as deer winter range. The area contains significant historic, geologic and scenic values. A central core area (See Map 10) is currently listed on National Register of Historic Places, is designated as a National Historic Landmark and a National Natural Landmark. The area contains unique geologic landforms, as well as remnants of two historic trails: the California Trail and the Salt Lake Cut-off. Scenic values are the highest in the RMP area. Soil erosion is a problem on approximately 13 percent of the area. Considerable recreational use occurs in the area including rock climbing, sightseeing, hiking and hunting. A picnic area is located at Twin Sisters. There are fourteen grazing allotments in the area.

Resource Management Objectives:

A. Improve 14,012 acres of poor and fair condition rangeland to good.

B. Provide 1,737 AUMs of forage for livestock (See Appendix C).

C. Maintain or improve 7,528 acres of crucial deer winter range (See Map 9).

D. Provide forage for the following mule deer by season of use: 166 spring; 166 summer; 166 fall; and 473 winter.

E. Provide yearlong forage for 18 antelope.

F. Control surface disturbing activities on 2,512 acres having soils with high present erosion (See Map 9).

G. Provide 260 pinyon pine Christmas trees from 1,015 acres for public (non-commercial) harvest every year. (Management Sub Area 8a.)(See Map 10.)

H. Preserve the geologic, historic and scenic values of 1,628 acres known as the City of Rocks, thus upholding the integrity of National Natural Landmark and National Historic Landmark designations for the area. (Management Sub Area 8b.)(See Map 10)

I. Transfer 120 acres out of federal ownership: 80 via private exchange and 40 via sale or other disposal method (See Map 19).

Required Actions:

A. Energy Resources

Open to leasing subject to the following stipulations: No exploration or drilling activity, or storage facilities allowed within 330 feet of historic trails or inscribed rocks and the City of Rocks core area. No exploration/development in crucial deer winter range from December 1 through March 31.

B. Fire Management

Maximum suppression. Prescribed burning is allowed.

C. Grazing Management

Initial livestock use level is 1,491 AUMs (See Appendix C). Treat 1,274 acres (See Map 9) of rangeland to increase livestock forage production by 246 AUMs.

D. Lands

Maintain legal access to accommodate public use and agency management when disposing of transfer lands.

E. Minerals

Open to mining and mineral leasing/sale.

F. Motorized Vehicle Management

Wheeled vehicles limited to existing roads and trails. Snowmobiles restricted to designated routes.

G. Wildlife

Provide 605 AUMs of forage for mule deer and 23 AUMs for antelope (See Appendix D). The following wildlife guidelines as identified in Appendix B, page 82 are applicable to this management area: 2a; 6a-e; 8a-k; 9b-g; 11a-f.

H. Woodland Products

Harvest will be allowed as long as it does not remove more than 20% of the woodland cover on 5,012 acres through the deer migration routes.

I. Activity Plans

Prepare a Graham Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan (See Map 18).
Prepare a Watershed Management Plan.
Prepare a Habitat Management Plan.
A number of activity management plans may be combined into one plan.

SUB AREA 8a - MODERATE

Required Actions:

A. Fire Management
Maximum suppression with techniques oriented toward minimizing non-fire related loss of the pinyon resource.

B. Grazing Management
Land treatments are excluded.

C. Lands
Exclude sanitary land fills and future rights-of-way.

D. Woodland Products
Open to the non-commercial harvest of pinyon Christmas trees. Open to the harvest of dead or downed juniper. Closed to the removal of live (green) junipers.

E. Activity Plans
Implement the Pinyon Christmas Tree Management Plan.

SUB AREA 8b - LIMITED

A. Energy Resources

Open to leasing subject to the following stipulations:

No exploration or drilling activity or storage facilities allowed in this area.

B. Fire Management

Use maximum suppression. Concentrate on the use of the hand tools, retardant, and other methods which will reduce the impact of fire fighting activities.

C. Grazing Management

No vegetative conversions, fences or water developments permitted.

D. Lands

Consolidate land ownership by acquiring through exchange, purchase or other means, private, U.S. Forest Service and/or State owned. Exclude sanitary landfills and utility lines.

E. Minerals

Closed to the sale and free use disposal of mineral materials.

F. Recreation

The area is a Special Recreation Management Area. Upgrade the existing picnic facility at Twin Sisters. Develop additional facilities such as hiking trails, picnic and camping areas as demand arises.

G. Woodland Products

Any harvest of woodland products must enhance the scenic values of the area.

H. Activity Plans

Prepare a City of Rocks Recreation Area Management Plan.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9 - RAFT RIVER VALLEY - MODERATE

The Raft River Valley area (See Map 11) consists of 106,684 acres of public land. This area includes the Raft River Valley and foothills of the Raft River and Black Pine Mountains. It extends from the Utah border to the Idahome area north of Malta. Elevation ranges from 5,500 feet in the foothills along the Utah border to 4,520 feet at the north end of the unit. Vegetation in the area consists primarily of sagebrush, greasewood and shadscale/salt-bush types with considerable acreage in crested wheatgrass seedings. Some 1,144 acres contain woodland habitat. High erosion potential soils occur on 6,885 acres. Seventeen acres of wetland/riparian habitat occur along 7.5 miles of Warm Creek and Raft River and around a number of springs. Four tributaries to the Raft River (Warm, Shirley, Meadow and One Mile Creeks) have been identified as critical floodplains (Sub Area 9b). Yearlong antelope habitat is found on 36,445 acres in the area. Sage grouse habitat is present on 61,763 acres including 556 acres of brood-rearing habitat. Ferruginous hawks, a sensitive species in Idaho, utilize much of the area as habitat and several nesting sites have been identified. Upland game hunting and ORV use are the main recreational activities in the area. Thirty-one grazing allotments are located in the management area.

The Point Springs Rangeland Research Area is located six miles east of Malta (Sub Area 9a). This area is utilized by universities for rangeland grazing investigations such as forage production and utilization, stand density, and livestock weights and gains.

Resource Management Objectives:

A. Improve 74,200 acres of poor and fair condition rangeland to good.

B. Provide 20,787 AUMs of forage for livestock (See Appendix C).

C. Provide forage for the following mule deer by season of use: 160 spring; 160 summer; 160 fall; 274 winter.

D. Provide forage for the following antelope by season of use: 239 spring; 239 summer; 201 fall; 201 winter.

E. Maintain or improve 556 acres of sage grouse brood-rearing habitat.

F. Protect nesting ferruginous hawks from human disturbance .

G. Control surface disturbing activities on 6,855 acres having soils with high erosion potential (See Map 11).

H. Accommodate rangeland research and experimental work within the 8,227 acre Point Springs Allotment. (Sub Area 9a.)(See Map.12)

I. Manage 2,000 acres of critical floodplain along Warm Creek, Meadow Creek, Shirley Creek and One Mile Creek to increase plant cover, improve channel stability, and reduce flood potential. (Sub Area 9b.)(See Map 11)

J. Transfer 5,383 acres out of federal ownership: 3,234 acres via private exchange and 2,149 acres via sale or other disposal method. Transfer 1,482 acres to the U.S. Forest Service (See Map 19).

Required Actions:

A. Energy Resources

Open to leasing subject to the following stipulation: Protect ferruginous hawks between March 1 and July 15 by prohibiting activity within the shorter of the following two distances - 2,000 feet or the visible range of active nest sites. No exploration/development work in sage grouse strutting/brood-rearing habitat from April 1 through June 15.

B. Fire Management

Maximum suppression. Prescribed burning is allowed.

C. Grazing Management

Initial livestock use level is 14,898 AUMs (See Appendix C). Treat 30,535 acres (See Map 11) of rangeland to increase livestock forage production by 5,889 AUMs.

D. Lands

Maintain legal access to accommodate public use and agency management when disposing of transfer lands.

E. Minerals

Open to mining and mineral leasing/sale.

F. Motorized Vehicle Management

Open to all vehicles.

G. Wildlife

Provide 446 AUMs of forage for mule deer and 305 AUMs for (See Appendix D) antelope. The following wildlife guidelines as identified in Appendix B, page 82 are applicable to this management area: 2a; 4a-d; 5a-e; 6a-e; 8a,c-k; 9b-g; 10a-d; 11a-f.

H. Activity Plans

Prepare seven allotment management plans (See Map 18):

Gully
George Creek
Clear Creek
Warm Creek*
Bridge
Strevell
E-Y Flat

Prepare coordinated resource management plans for the Almo Flat and Sandrock Allotments (See Map 18).

*Constrained by Sub Area 9b required actions.

Continue with Point Allotment Management Plan
Prepare a Habitat Management Plan.
Prepare a Watershed Management Plan.
A number of activity management plans may be combined into one plan.

SUB AREA 9a - MODERATE

Required Actions:

A. Grazing Management
Livestock forage allocations and grazing systems may be adjusted to accommodate rangeland research.

B. Motorized Vehicle Management
Wheeled vehicles limited to existing roads and trails except authorized research personnel.

SUB AREA 9b - LIMITED

Required Actions:

A. Access
Roads will be managed to provide low sedimentation and provide low risk of drainage failure. New roads will be excluded.

B. Energy Resources
Open to leasing subject to no disturbance within 500 feet of floodplains.

C. Fire Management
Suppress fires without the use of heavy equipment. Prescribed burning excluded.

D. Grazing Management
Orient livestock management toward floodplain protection. Management targets will include grass and forb species diversity and brush species that will achieve drainage bank stability. Make livestock water available outside of floodplains.

E. Lands
Design rights-of-way crossing to minimize sedimentation and drainage failure. Exclude sanitary landfills.

F. Minerals
Closed to disposal of mineral materials via sale and free use.

G. Motorized Vehicle Management
Wheeled vehicles limited to existing roads and trails.

H. Watershed
Develop and maintain hydrologically sound check dams to control

flooding. Any fire rehab or vegetative conversions must enhance watershed cover via sod forming plants.

I. Activity Plans

Prepare Flood Management Plan.

MANAGEMENT AREA 10 - JIM SAGE - MODERATE

The Jim Sage area (See Map 13) consists of the Jim Sage Mountains and surrounding foothills encompassing 76,667 acres. The eastern one-third of the area is a broad, gently sloping plain. Elevation ranges from 4,600 feet along the eastern edge of the unit to over 8,000 feet on the highest peak. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush types with significant areas of juniper, native grasses, and crested wheatgrass seeding. Considerable species of mountain shrub is found on the upper slopes. There are 23,127 acres identified as woodland habitat, primarily juniper with some scattered pinyon. High erosion potential soils occur on 1,560 acres. Numerous springs and 9.5 miles of streams provide 25 acres of wetland/riparian habitat. The central, mountainous portion of the unit provides year round deer range with 36,164 acres being winter range. Antelope yearlong habitat is found on 3,327 acres along the eastern edge of the area. Approximately 5,730 acres of sage grouse winter habitat, 1,201 acres of nesting/brood-rearing habitat, and 58,894 acres of general habitat are found in the unit. Ferruginous hawks, a sensitive species in Idaho, utilize the eastern portion of the the unit as habitat with a number of identified nest sites present. The central portion of the Jim Sage Mountains remains primitive in nature and is generally unroaded with few range developments or other improvements. Non-motorized recreational activities, such as hiking and horseback riding, are predominant in this portion of the unit with motorized pursuits confined to the lower slopes and foothills. Hunting occurs throughout the unit. Five grazing allotments are included in the area.

Resource Management Objectives:

A. Provide 9,877 AUMs of forage for livestock (See Appendix C).

B. Improve 51,978 acres of poor and fair condition rangeland to good.

C. Maintain or improve 22,780 acres of crucial deer winter range, 5,730 acres of sage grouse winter habitat and 1,201 acres of sage grouse brood-rearing habitat (See Map 13).

D. Protect nesting ferruginous hawks from human disturbance.

E. Provide forage for the following mule deer by season of use: 436 spring; 436 summer; 436 fall; 2,179 winter.

F. Provide yearlong forage for 100 antelope.

G. Protect natural qualities on 11,227 acres of Jim Sage Mountain above 6,600 feet elevation (See Map 13).

H. Control surface disturbing activities on 1,360 acres having soils with high erosion potential (See Map 13).

I. Transfer 280 acres out of federal ownership via sale or other disposal method (See Map 19).

Required Actions:

A. Energy Resources

Open to leasing subject to the following stipulations: No exploration/development in crucial deer winter range December 1st through March 31st and in sage grouse nesting/brood-rearing areas April 1st to June 15th. Protect ferruginous hawks between March 1st and July 15th by prohibiting activity within the shorter of the following two distances - 2,000 feet or the visible range of active nest sites.

B. Fire Management

Limited suppression. Prescribed burning is allowed. Only hand tools will be used for fire suppression above 6,600 feet elevation.

C. Grazing Management

Initial livestock use level is 5,456 AUMs (See Appendix C). Treat 19,825 acres (See Map 13) of rangeland to increase livestock forage production by 4,421 AUMs.

Range forage improvement above the 6,600 foot level will give first consideration to native species. Range improvements will be small, dispersed and designed to fit with the surrounding landscape.

D. Lands

Maintain legal access to accommodate public use and agency management when disposing of transfer lands.

E. Minerals

Open to mining, and mineral leasing and sale. Minerals development will be managed in a manner that protects the scenic and natural characteristics above 6,600 feet elevation.

F. Motorized Vehicle Management

Wheeled vehicles limited to existing roads and trails. Open to snowmobiles. Short-term deviations will be allowed when activity plans specify the duration and rotation of off-road vehicles use.

G. Recreation

The area above 6,600 feet is a Special Recreation Management Area. Emphasize primitive recreation above 6,600 feet by providing trails and trailheads to accommodate hiking and horseback riding, on approximately 11,227 acres.

H. Wildlife

Provide 2,288 AUMs of forage for mule deer (See Appendix D).
Provide 127 AUMs of forage for antelope (See Appendix D).
Wildlife improvements above 6,600 feet will be small in size, dispersed, and designed to fit with the surrounding landscape. The following wildlife guidelines as identified in Appendix B, page 82 are applicable to this management area: 2a; 4a-d; 5a-e; 6a-e; 8a-k; 9b-g; 11a-c,e,f.

I. Woodland Products

Harvest of woodland products above 6,600 feet (11,227) acres will be allowed if it enhances the recreational values.

J. Activity Plans

Prepare four Allotment Management Plans (See Map 18):

- Jim Sage*
- Cassia Creek*
- Almo-Womack*
- Chokecherry*

Prepare a Limited Suppression Fire Plan.
Prepare a Habitat Management Plan.
Prepare a Recreation Activity Management Plan.
Prepare a Watershed Management Plan.
A number of activity management plans may be combined into one plan.

*Constrained by Wildlife and Watershed sections of the Resource Management Objectives.