

## Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

### Locatable Minerals

#### Objective:

**LOCM 1:** Provide opportunities for exploration and development of locatable mineral resources on public lands under the Mining Laws.

**Rationale:** The 1872 Mining Law (30 USC 22 et. seq), along with the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970, declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of domestic mineral resources. The FLPMA, Section 102, reiterates that the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 is to be implemented and directs that the public lands are to be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources. The National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research, and Development Act of 1980 restates the need to implement the 1970 act and requires the Secretary of the Interior to improve the quality of minerals data in federal land use decision making.

#### Monitoring:

- Regular surveillance to detect and confirm unauthorized mining activity.
- Monitor active mining operations.
- Make periodic inspections consistent with BLM policies.
- Continue the review of all pertinent literature.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Manage areas classified as having a high potential for locatable minerals primarily for mineral development while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation.
2. Allow mineral exploration and development on areas classified as having a moderate to low potential for locatable minerals subject to reasonable measures to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation.
3. Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry certain recreation areas, certain ACECs, and lands that become designated as Wild, Scenic or Recreational Rivers or Wilderness areas. See Table LOCM-1.

### Fluid Minerals

#### Objective:

**FLUM 1:** Provide opportunities for exploration and development of oil and gas and geothermal resources on public lands by imposing the least restrictive leasing categories necessary to protect other resources.

**Rationale:** The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended, the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 as amended, and the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the federal government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of domestic mineral resources. FLPMA, Section 102 reiterates that the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 is to be implemented and directs that the public lands are to be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources.



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### **Monitoring:**

- Incorporate stipulations on leases as appropriate.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Provide maximum opportunity for leasing, exploration and development of oil & gas and geothermal resources consistent with the protection of other resource values.
2. Close certain areas to fluid mineral leasing to protect identified resource values. See Table FLUM-1.
3. Lease with no surface occupancy, seasonal occupancy and other surface occupancy stipulations certain areas to protect identified resource values. See Table FLUM-1.

## **Mineral Materials**

### **Objective:**

**MMAT 1:** Provide opportunities for use of common variety minerals obtained from the public lands.

**Rationale:** The Materials Act of July 31, 1947 as amended (30 USC 601) and the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the federal government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of domestic mineral resources. The FLPMA, Section 102 reiterates that the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 is to be implemented and directs that the public lands are to be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources.

### **Monitoring:**

- Geologist and other resource specialists to note unauthorized use, make periodic inspections for authorized use and maintain records in accordance with BLM manuals.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Provide for mineral material needs through negotiated sales, free use permits and community pits.
2. Detect, confirm, and abate unauthorized use on the public lands. Effect reclamation of lands damaged by unauthorized use.
3. Close certain areas to mineral material disposal. See Table MMAT-1.
4. Manage existing material sites for long-term use by government agencies and the general public.



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### Recreation

#### Objective:

**RECT 1:** Provide for off-highway motor vehicle (OHMV) use on public lands while protecting sensitive resource values.

**Rationale:** Federal regulations require the BLM to designate all public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-highway (or off-road) motor vehicle use for the purpose of meeting public demand for OHMV activities, to protect natural resources and the safety of the public, and to minimize conflicts among various user groups. Federal regulations pertaining to OHMV planning include 43 CFR 8342; Executive Order 11644, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands (37 FR 2877: February 9, 1977); Executive Order 11989, Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands (42 FR 26959h; May 25, 1977).

#### Monitoring:

- Periodic patrols to check designation boundaries, signing, and recreational use.
- In the Owyhee Front SRMA, patrols will be weekly. In the rest of the ORA, patrols will be monthly.
- Establishment of baseline data and photo points to determine impacts of recreation use on soil, water quality, and vegetation resources.
- Rehabilitation of specific sites as necessary.
- Monitoring of administrative activities to ensure compliance with OHMV designations and related motorized access authority/exclusion decisions.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Manage OHMV recreational use and mechanized vehicle recreational use on public lands in accordance with the following designations: See Maps RECT-1, RECT-2, and RECT-4.

Open: Off-highway motorized vehicle use is allowed on all public lands without special restrictions, except as otherwise posted: 192 acres.

Limited: Off-highway motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails year-round, except as otherwise posted: 519,442 acres. Off-highway motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails, except as otherwise posted: 698,363 acres. Within the limited use area, competitive use may be permitted on designated routes on 224,265 acres. On 13,959 of these acres competitive use may be permitted on designated routes only from July 1 through November 14.

Closed: All lands are closed to off-highway motorized vehicle use year-round: 101,994 acres.

2. Manage Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) recreational use on public lands in accordance with the following designations: See Map RECT-3.

Open: Over snow vehicle use is allowed on all public lands without special restrictions, except as otherwise posted: 864,729 acres.

Limited: Over snow vehicle use is limited to designated areas, except as otherwise posted: 24,211 acres. Over snow vehicle use is restricted from 12/15 through 3/31, except as otherwise posted: 90,749 acres.



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Closed: All lands are closed to over snow vehicle use: 259,036 acres.

Closed-IMP: All lands are closed to over snow vehicle use; if released from wilderness consideration, lands are then managed as limited to designated areas: 81,266 acres

### Objective:

**RECT 2:** Provide special management attention to areas of public land with identified special recreational, scenic, and cultural values where current and projected recreational demand warrants intensive management.

**Rationale:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; P.L. 94-579) provides for recreation use of public lands as an integral part of multiple-use management. Dispersed, unstructured activities typify the recreational uses occurring on most public lands. Federal regulations (43 CFR 8300) authorize the BLM to designate administrative units known as special recreation management areas (SRMAs) where there is a need to commit to a higher level of financial investment in recreational facilities and a higher level of managerial presence than is typical of most BLM lands. A SRMA designation signifies a long-term commitment to manage the physical, social, and managerial settings of an area to sustain specific activities and experience opportunities. The delineations are based upon administrative/managerial criteria that reflect congressional designations (such as National Wild, Scenic or Recreational rivers), similar or interdependent recreation values, homogenous or interrelated recreation uses, land tenure and use patterns, transportation systems, administrative efficiency, intensity of use, high resource values, and public concern.

### Monitoring:

- Specific monitoring needs are to be determined during the preparation of SRMA activity plans. These needs will generally include:
  - a. Periodic patrols (several times yearly) to check boundaries, signing, and recreational use.
  - b. Establishment of baseline data and photo points to determine current impacts from recreational use.
  - c. Rehabilitation of specific sites as necessary, including the upgrading and development of recreation facilities.
  - d. Development of “Limits of Acceptable Change” studies, where suitable, to help determine appropriate levels and patterns of recreational use, and the influences of other resource uses.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Manage all SRMAs for identified recreational opportunities and experiences. See Table RECT-1 and Map RECT-5.
  - Blackstock: 6,149 acres; semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural.
  - Jump Creek: 8,667 acres; roaded natural and semi-primitive non-motorized.
  - North Fork Canyon: 475 acres: primitive and roaded natural.
  - Owyhee Canyonlands: 36,839 acres: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized (additional 5,627 acres in the Bruneau Resource Area). Manage in accordance with Owyhee River Recreation Area Management Plan (USDI-BLM, April 1983), or as amended.
  - Silver City: 2,166 acres: roaded natural and urban.
  - Deep Creek: 6,451 acres (includes 567 acre addition): primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and roaded natural (additional 5,627 acres in the Bruneau Resource Area).



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- Snake River Birds of Prey: 53,177 acres (includes 45,587 acre addition): semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural.
  - Owyhee Front: 261,487 acres (includes 79,896 acre addition): semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural.
2. Designate 887,178 acres as an extensive recreation management area (ERMA) and manage primarily for semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural opportunities and experiences.

### **Objective:**

**RECT 3:** Determine the suitability of all eligible rivers and streams for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**Rationale:** The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542), Section 5(d), requires the Secretary of the Interior to identify “river” segments which are eligible to receive consideration as potential wild, scenic, and recreational river areas. Section 5(d) further directs the Secretary to determine which eligible river segments should be evaluated in the BLM planning process “... as alternatives to the developments being planned.” This evaluation is referred to as the suitability determination. The procedures by which the BLM determines eligibility and suitability are described in 43 CFR 8351 (Designated National Areas) and the USDI-USDA Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (47 FR 39454).

### **Monitoring:**

- Periodic (several times per year) patrols to check boundaries and affected river corridor lands, signing, recreation and other use.
- Establishment of baseline data and photo plots to determine current impacts from recreation and other use.
- Rehabilitation of specific sites as necessary, including the construction of small recreation sites at launch sites and take-outs, and the construction of portage trails around unrunnable or dangerous rapids.
- Undertake “Limits of Acceptable Change” studies on affected river corridors to determine the appropriate level and pattern of recreation use, and the influences of other resource uses.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that 163.0 miles of eligible rivers and streams are suitable for National Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River Designation. See Map WSR-1.
- South Fork Owyhee River: Wild: 26.5 miles.
  - South Fork Owyhee River: Recreational: 1.5 miles.
  - East Fork Owyhee River: Wild: 66.0 miles.
  - Deep Creek: Wild: 32.0 miles.
  - Nickel Creek: Wild: 8.0 miles.
  - Current Creek: Wild: 7.5 miles.



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- Current Creek: Scenic: 1.5 miles.
  - Lower North Fork Owyhee River: Wild: 3.5 miles.
  - Lower North Fork Owyhee River: Scenic: 0.5 miles.
  - Upper North Fork Owyhee River: Wild: 16.0 miles.
2. Provide for interim protection of wild, scenic, and recreational river values of these river segments while awaiting a determination by Congress. See Appendix RECT-2 for management standards for the three river classifications.

### **Objective:**

**RECT 4:** Provide for high quality recreational opportunities and experiences at developed and undeveloped recreation sites by maintaining existing amenities (roaded natural, urban and semi-primitive motorized settings) and by providing new recreation sites for the public's enjoyment, with emphasis on roaded natural and semi-primitive motorized settings.

**Rationale:** The BLM is committed to maintaining recreation facilities to a standard that protects the resource, the public and the public investment, and fosters pride of public ownership, and to developing appropriate recreation facilities, balancing public demand, protection of public land resources, and fiscal responsibility. BLM planning guidance requires the BLM to coordinate with other federal and state plans such as the Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the River Basin Plans of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and include applicable data and findings in BLM planning documents. Data taken from the Idaho SCORP indicates that overall recreation use in the ORA in 2015 will be 70% above 1995 use levels; placing increased demand on existing recreation facilities and warranting consideration of new sites and facilities.

### **Monitoring:**

- Periodic (bi-weekly, weekly or monthly) patrols by maintenance staff to check facilities and recreational use.
- Periodic patrols by BLM Ranger(s) to assure visitor compliance with regulations concerning the appropriate use of public lands.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Maintain, upgrade, reconstruct, and/or modify recreational facilities at nine (9) recreation sites (See Map RECT-5):
  - Hemingway Butte OHV Trailhead.
  - Rabbit Creek OHV Trailhead.
  - Fossil Creek OHV Trailhead.
  - North Fork Campground.
  - Jump Creek Recreation Site.
  - Little Squaw Creek Recreation Site.



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- Silver City Campground.
  - Ruby Junction Recreation Site.
  - Garat Crossing Recreation Site.
2. Construct additional recreation sites as public use levels increase:
    - Snake River Birds of Prey NCA - in conformance with approved NCA planning documents.
    - Owyhee Front equestrian trailheads - two sites.
    - Owyhee Uplands National Back Country Byway campgrounds - two sites.
    - North Fork Owyhee Backcountry trailheads - two sites.
    - Other sites as may be appropriate.
  3. Maintain undeveloped recreation sites throughout the Owyhee Resource Area to protect public health and safety.

### Objective

**RECT 5:** Develop a trail system that provides a range of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities for the public's enjoyment of primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural settings.

**Rationale:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; P.L. 94-579) provides for the recreational use of public lands as an integral part of multiple-use management. In accordance with this law, the BLM is committed to providing and maintaining a wide diversity of recreation opportunities on public lands, including opportunities to utilize developed trail systems. Idaho's SCORP identifies the role of federal agencies to develop dispersed facilities such as trails to meet existing and projected demand. There is increasing demand by user groups and local government entities to expand the trail system to accommodate a variety of trail opportunities.

### Monitoring:

- Periodic patrols by maintenance staff to check trail facilities and recreational use. Patrols will be weekly, monthly or several times a year depending on trail location.
- Periodic patrols by BLM Ranger(s) to assure visitor compliance with regulations concerning the appropriate use of public lands.
- Periodic (monthly) patrols of the road corridor to check signing and vehicle use, as well as roadway safety.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. As public use levels increase, provide for the establishment or expansion of foot or equestrian trails, consistent with other management objectives, in the following areas:
  - North Fork Canyon SRMA - foot travel only.
  - North Fork Owyhee Backcountry SRMA - foot/equestrian travel. See Map RECT-6.
  - Owyhee Canyonlands SRMA - foot travel only; portage trails around Owyhee Falls and Thread the Needle Rapid on the East Fork Owyhee River.
  - Snake River Birds of Prey NCA - foot/equestrian trail around Guffey Butte. See Map RECT-7.
  - Jump Creek SRMA - foot trail into upper Jump Creek Canyon.
  - Other areas as may be appropriate.



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2. Provide for the evaluation, expansion, or modification of existing motorized and non-motorized trail systems to further public opportunities to safely enjoy recreational settings, consistent with other management objectives, in the following areas:
  - Owyhee Front SRMA.
  - Other areas as may be appropriate.
3. Develop a mountain bike trail program utilizing existing dirt roads and trails.
4. Maintain the Owyhee Uplands National Back Country Byway's existing roaded natural opportunities. Enhance recreational opportunities associated with the corridor's roaded natural setting with interpretive materials and signs.
5. Modify existing motorized vehicle opportunities consistent with OHMV designations and subject to congressional wilderness designations.
6. Manage the Oregon National Historic Trail in accordance with the Oregon Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan (USDI-NPS, 1981) and Oregon Trail Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1984), or as may be amended.

### **Objective:**

**RECT 6:** Pursue increased public access opportunities in motorized and nonmotorized settings through the acquisition of fee titles or recreational easements (willing landowners only).

**Rationale:** BLM is committed to enhancing recreational opportunities through land ownership adjustments, increased and improved access, and other acquisitions.

### **Monitoring:**

- Monitoring of recreational use on affected non-federal properties.
- Monitoring for easement compliance.
- Periodic (bi-weekly) patrols by maintenance staff to check road conditions and recreational use.
- Periodic patrols by BLM Ranger(s) to assure visitor compliance with regulations concerning the appropriate use of public lands.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Pursue recreational easements that allow for public access.
2. Pursue the purchase (fee title) of properties which would enhance recreation opportunities.
3. Upgrade access roads from dirt to gravel into the North Fork Owyhee Backcountry SRMA trailhead locations.



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### **Objective:**

**RECT 7:** Retain at least 10% of the ORA in a primitive recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) setting.

**Rationale:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; P.L. 94-579), Section 102 (8), declares as policy that "...the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of the scenic resources...that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition." At present, only 13% of the ORA retains a primitive setting (Resource Opportunity Spectrum classification).

### **Monitoring:**

- Periodic updating of recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) inventory.
- Application of ROS consideration through NEPA review.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Prohibit the construction of new rangeland (livestock, watershed, and wildlife) facilities within the primitive settings of the SRMA lands associated with the Owyhee River system, except for a maximum of one linear mile of gap fences if needed to exclude livestock from river corridors. See Appendix RECT-3 and Map RECT-5 and RECT-8. The affected SRMAs are:
  - North Fork Canyon SRMA.
  - North Fork Owyhee Backcountry SRMA.
  - Owyhee Canyonlands SRMA.
  - Deep Creek SRMA.

## **Wilderness**

### **Objective:**

**WNES 1:** Manage wilderness study areas so as not to impair their suitability for potential designation as wilderness.

**Rationale:** Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires that all public lands be inventoried for the presence of wilderness characteristics. Those found to have wilderness characteristics are identified as wilderness study areas (WSAs) and are to be managed for the protection of wilderness values until such time that Congress can act on wilderness suitability recommendations prepared for each WSA. The Idaho BLM Wilderness Study Report was approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1992 for submission to the President and Congress. The wilderness study areas in the Owyhee Resource Area are shown on the next page:



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WSA Number	WSA Name	Acreage
ID-16-40	North Fork Owyhee River	50,865
ID-16-41	Big Willow Spring	6,210
ID-16-42	Squaw Careek Canyon	10,780
ID-111(16)44	Upper Deep Creek	530
ID-16-45	Middle Fork Owyhee River	14,820
ID-16-47	West Fork Red Canyon	12,970
ID-16-48A (OR-3-194)	Lookout Butte	34,400
ID-16-48B (OR-3-195)	Owyhee River Canyon	35,620
ID-16-48C	Little Owyhee River	24,790
ID-16-49A	Owyhee River-Deep Creek	52,090
ID-16-49D	Yatahoney Creek	4,745
ID-16-52	Juniper Creek	5,855
ID-16-53 (NV-011-103A)	South Fork Owyhee River	44,955
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>298,630</b>

See Map WNES-1 and Table WNES-1 for additional information.

### Monitoring:

- Implement generic monitoring standards as specified in the Boise District IMP Plan and the Owyhee IMP Implementation Plan.

### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Ensure that WSA lands and Section 202 study lands remain substantially natural in character, retain outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation experiences, and support supplemental wilderness values.
2. Manage WSA lands in conformance with BLM Interim Management Policy For Lands Under Wilderness Review.



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**Objective:**

**WNES 2:** Following any enabling legislation, manage designated wilderness areas to ensure an enduring wilderness resource.

**Rationale:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act recognizes wilderness as an integral part of the spectrum of multiple uses of public lands. Lands designated as wilderness are to be managed into perpetuity for the protection of wilderness and other multiple-use values in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the BLM’s Wilderness Management Policy (September 24, 1981). The Idaho BLM Wilderness Study Report was approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1992. The President submitted these wilderness recommendations to Congress in September of 1992. The recommendations for wilderness in the Owyhee Resource Area are:

WSA Number	WSA NAME	ACREAGE
ID-16-40	North Fork Owyhee River	41,025
ID-16-48B	Owyhee River Canyon	35,620
ID-15-48C	Little Owyhee River	16,330
ID-16-49A	Owyhee River-Deep Creek	47,840
ID-16-49D	Yatahoney Creek	4,425
ID-16-52	Juniper Creek	5,785
ID-16-53	South Fork Owyhee River	44,955
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>195,980</b>

See Map WNES-1 and Table WNES-2 for additional information.

**Monitoring:**

- Monitoring needs are to be determined by specific wilderness management plans.

**Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Manage designated wilderness in accordance with enabling legislation and other applicable federal legislation and policies.



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### Visual Resources

#### Objective:

**VISL 1:** Manage public lands for visual resource values under Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications.

**Rationale:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; P.L. 94-579), Section 102(8), declares as policy that public lands will be managed to "... protect the quality of the scenic values... that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition." The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; P.L. 9-190), Section 101(b), requires federal agencies to "... assure for all Americans... esthetically pleasing surroundings." Section 102 of NEPA requires agencies to "...utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of ... Environmental Design Acts in the planning and decision making..." process. Guidelines for the identification of VRM classes on public lands is contained in BLM Manual Handbook 8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory. The establishment of VRM areas is based upon an evaluation of the landscapes' scenic qualities, public sensitivity toward certain areas (such as special recreation designations or wilderness), and the location of affected lands from major travel corridors (distance zoning).

#### Monitoring:

- In VRM Class I and Class II areas, on-site visual quality control inspections will occur at the time of project construction, reconstruction, and maintenance.
- In VRM Class III and IV areas, ongoing quality control inspections of ORA project work in general will be done, however, attendance at specific project sites during construction, reconstruction, and maintenance will not be required.

#### Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Classify and manage public lands under the following VRM classifications:

Class I areas:	71,332 acres
Class II areas:	242,150 acres
Class II-IMP areas:	123,496 acres
Class III areas:	144,785 acres
Class IV areas:	738,228 acres

See Map VISL-1.

See Appendix VISL-1 for classification and objectives.

### Cultural Resources

#### Objective:

**CULT 1:** Protect known cultural resource values from loss until their significance is determined.

**Rationale:** The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Cultural resource sites are deteriorating from the effects of vandalism and neglect.



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### **Monitoring:**

- Monitor cultural resource sites to determine site condition and mitigation needs.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Monitor a minimum of 15 cultural resource sites each year to determine site condition and provide information for developing management actions.
2. Mitigate the negative impacts to significant cultural resource sites known to be suffering the effects of agents of deterioration.
3. Develop management strategies to ensure preservation of cultural resource values within specific areas known to contain concentrations of unique or significant cultural resource sites.

### **Objective:**

**CULT 2:** Provide special management emphasis for the protection and conservation of significant cultural resource sites and values.

**Rationale:** The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides for the protection of cultural resource values on land managed by federal agencies and identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

### **Monitoring:**

- According to schedule outlined in the Oregon Trail Management Plan and the Birds of Prey Cultural Resource Management Plan.
- Make three site visits per year to ensure Silver City homeowner compliance with Owyhee County Historic Preservation Committee recommendations.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Protect the integrity of those portions of the 80 mile Oregon Trail and associated cultural resource sites on public land. See Map CULT-1.
2. Manage the existing Silver City, DeLamar and Guffey Butte/Black Butte Historic Districts in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. See Map CULT-1.
3. Manage the existing Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District ACEC to protect cultural resource values. See Table ACEC-1 and Map CULT-1.
4. Identify, evaluate, and nominate sites/areas that qualify to the National Register of Historic Places and prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans for those sites.



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### **Objective:**

**CULT 3:** Increase the opportunity for educational, recreational, socio-cultural and scientific uses of cultural resources.

**Rationale:** The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Public participation in the preservation process is essential to prevent continued loss of cultural values.

### **Monitoring:**

- Normal BLM accomplishment tracking process.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Participate in cooperation with State and other federal agencies, Native American Tribes and private entities to conduct public outreach programs including “Archaeology Week” and other cultural resource related events.

## **Hazardous Materials**

### **Objective:**

**HAZM 1:** Reduce the occurrence and severity of hazardous material incidences on public lands. Minimize the human health threat and the risk to natural resources from hazardous materials contamination.

**Rationale:** The Secretary’s waste management initiative commits the BLM to reducing hazardous material situations on public lands. Federal agencies are required to comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and policies regarding hazardous materials on public lands. These include:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), As Amended 1976/1980 - 42 USC 6901f.
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) 1980 - 42 USC 9601f.
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) 1987 - 33 USC 1251-1387.
- Clean Air Act, As Amended 1977/1990 - 42 USC 7418.
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act, As Amended 1976 - 43 USC 1701f.

### **Monitoring:**

- Periodic review of NEPA documents.
- Field review of compliance.
- Yearly assessment of reported sites.
- Follow-up monitoring to be developed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Ensure that hazardous material and potential hazardous material problems associated with BLM authorized land use actions are identified. All actions authorizing the use of hazardous materials will comply with federal/State laws and regulations and authorization specific BLM stipulations.



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2. Increase law enforcement actions and public education to reduce the amount of illegal disposal of hazardous materials on public lands.
3. Implement remediation/removal actions for hazardous materials incidents on public lands in a timely and efficient manner.
4. Actively pursue having the polluter pay for hazardous material incidents and cost reimbursement for actions taken by the BLM when a responsible party is identified.

### **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

#### **Objective:**

**ACEC 1:** Retain existing and designate new areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) where relevance and importance criteria are met and where special management is needed to protect the values identified.

**Rationale:** Section 202 (c)(3) of FLPMA mandates that priority be given to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern. Further guidance and evaluation criteria are found at 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2.

#### **Monitoring:**

- Relevant and important values of each designated ACEC would be monitored on a regular schedule to evaluate the effectiveness of management in maintaining those values.

#### **Management Actions and Allocations:**

1. Designate the following as areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs): See Map ACEC-1.
  - Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District (7,750 acres).
  - Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area (141,796 acres).
  - Boulder Creek Outstanding Natural Area (6,978 acres).
  - North Fork Juniper Woodland Outstanding Natural Area (4,204 acres).
  - Cinnabar Mountain Research Natural Area (277 acres).
  - Coal Mine Basin Research Natural Area (1,604 acres).
  - Jump Creek Canyon (612 acres).
  - McBride Creek Research Natural Area (261 acres).
  - Pleasant Valley Table Research Natural Area (1,467 acres).
  - Sommercamp Butte Research Natural Area (440 acres).
  - Squaw Creek Research Natural Area (150 acres).
  - The Badlands Research Natural Area (1833 acres).

The total acreage of the 12 designated areas is 167,372 acres.



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2. Designate The Tules as a Research Natural Area (114 acres). The Tules is within the boundary of the Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area ACEC.
3. Manage designated ACECs with the special management actions identified in Table ACEC-1.
4. Complete exclosure fencing of Squaw Creek RNA/ACEC and a segment of McBride Creek RNA/ACEC within two years.

