

Wilderness

Shale Butte WSA (57-2). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, live-stock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Although the entire WSA is accessible to trailbike use and, except for a number of very rough areas, four-wheel drive vehicles, recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit. Long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the WSA.

Livestock management would require the occasional use of vehicles on ways inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activities inside the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. Since fires occur frequently (one every five years) there is a fair chance that over the long term some damage to the wilderness resource due to fire suppression activities would occur. Fires would continue to create conditions that are unfavorable to vegetation that is representative of the potential natural vegetation for this area (Sagebrush-Steppe).

Sand Butte WSA (57-8). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. Slight beneficial affects to naturalness in the WSA would be realized from having less impact on vegetation from livestock. This would be due to more even distribution of livestock, which would be brought about by better water distribution in the WSA. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

The entire WSA is accessible to trailbike use. In a few areas close to existing roads and ways it is also accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Although recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit, long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the WSA.

Facilities for livestock management would be developed that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. One well and approximately eight miles of road would be constructed within the WSA. The road would affect naturalness on 36 acres in the unit. Frequent vehicle use to haul water during the spring and fall would adversely impact solitude on 5,091 acres in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, new claims or leases and subsequent development would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activity inside the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. Some portions of the WSA have fires fairly frequently (three times in the last twenty years), although most of the WSA has burned at a much lower frequency. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness.

Raven's Eye WSA (57-10). A portion of the WSA, 42,116 acres in size, would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 24,994 acres would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness. Beneficial impacts to those portions of the WSA recommended as suitable would be that all wilderness resources would be maintained. No impacts beneficial to the wilderness resource would be realized on the portion of the WSA recommended as nonsuitable. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources in the portion recommended as nonsuitable for designation.

None of the WSA recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be subject to off-road vehicle use. All of the 24,944 acres recommended nonsuitable are accessible to trailbike use, and some areas along existing roads and ways are accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit. Long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA.

No adverse impacts from livestock management would occur in the suitable portion of the WSA. In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, three miles of road would be constructed to facilitate water hauling from a new well facility. The road would adversely affect the wilderness value of naturalness on fourteen acres. Traffic from frequent water hauling during the spring and fall would adversely affect the wilderness value of solitude on 1,910 acres.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, new claims or leases and subsequent development would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Use of heavy equipment to suppress fire in the suitable portion would be restricted to minimize adverse effects on wilderness character. In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, fire suppression activities could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness.

Little Deer (57-11). A portion of the WSA, 25,773 acres in size, would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 7,758 acres would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness. Beneficial impacts to those portions of the WSA recommended as suitable would be that all wilderness resources would be maintained. No impacts beneficial to the wilderness resource would be realized on the portion of the WSA recommended as nonsuitable. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources in the portion recommended as nonsuitable for designation.

None of the WSA recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be subject to off-road vehicle use. Approximately 79 percent of the 7,758 acres recommended nonsuitable is accessible to trailbike use and four-wheel drive vehicles. Recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit. Long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA.

Livestock management would require the occasional use of vehicles on ways inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, new claims or leases and subsequent development would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Use of heavy equipment to suppress fire in the suitable portion would be restricted to minimize adverse effects on wilderness character. In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, fire suppression activities could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness.

Bear Den Butte WSA (57-14). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Approximately 56 percent of the WSA is accessible to trailbike use. A much smaller area close to existing roads and ways is accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Although recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit, long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use will increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in those portions of the WSA that are accessible.

Livestock management would require the occasional use of vehicles on ways inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activity on 56 percent of the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. The remainder of the WSA is so barren of vegetation that fires of more than an acre or two rarely occur. In addition, that part of the WSA is so rugged that fire suppression using heavy equipment would not be attempted. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness in those portions of the WSA accessible to heavy equipment.

Shoshone WSA (59-7). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. The only activity that would have an adverse impact on wilderness values is mining. The WSA is so rugged that it is not used by other activities such as livestock management, recreational ORV use, and fire suppression.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, new claims or leases and subsequent development would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Natural History

Project work that occurred in four of the AGI would be examined to assure that access to sensitive areas would not be improved.

Resource use proposals would be examined closely to protect naturalness in the Vineyard Creek ACEC. The remainder of the proposed Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark would be open to mineral material removal. Excavation of alluvial gravel deposits would adversely affect geological features that illustrate natural history related to the Bonneville Flood.

Resource use proposals would be examined closely to prevent degradation of natural history values related to the unique alcove ecosystem in the proposed Box Canyon National Natural Landmark.

Cultural Resources

Since any Bureau authorized or initiated action recognizes and accommodates cultural resources by virtue of our standard operating procedures (see Appendix H), the only activity which may damage these resources is unplanned public use. Such activities include unauthorized recreational vehicle use, artifact collection, and illegal excavation for materials and antiquities. The location of these activities is impossible to predict and may occur in spite of measures designed to exclude or limit them.

Effects of Alternative B would be the same as Alternative A except that those areas closed to ORV usage include 5,550 acres in high density cultural resource areas and 63,920 acres in low density cultural resource areas. ORV usage would be limited in 2,240 acres of high density cultural resource areas in the Cedar Fields SRMA. Limited disturbance on 78,120 acres would serve to protect sites on 7,685 acres of high density cultural resource areas. Limited disturbance refers to limited use of heavy equipment in fire suppression in WSAs recommended suitable, the Cedar Fields SRMA, Devil's Corral, and Areas of Geologic Interest.

Recreation

The growth rates discussed below are long-term (20-year) projections. The projected growth rates, both short-term (5-year) and long-term, are listed in Table 2-3 for various recreation activities.

Recreation growth, in general, would continue but at a slower rate than under present management as reflected in Alternative A. Some recreation

activities would experience accelerated growth, and some would experience a decline from present growth rates. Recreation opportunities would generally decrease in quality. Recreationists would experience greater competition for recreation resources and recreation-related conflicts would increase.

Float boating would be the most impacted recreation activity under this alternative. Floating activity would increase 347 percent compared to a 400 percent gain if present management would continue. This would occur as a result of the transfer of the only two access points to the Murtaugh segment of the Snake River.

Pheasant hunting would increase 64 percent compared to 88 percent under present management because of the loss of Isolated Tracts and transfer areas. Some of these areas are huntable and most provide cover. An increase in agricultural acreage is not expected to fully compensate for the loss of cover and many of the transferred areas would probably be posted to exclude hunters, once in private ownership. Hungarian partridge hunting would be similarly affected, although to a lesser extent.

Nature study would experience a 46 percent increase compared to 40 percent under Alternative A. This would occur as a result of wilderness designation of portions of Raven's Eye and Little Deer WSAs and by encouraging the reduction of sedimentation in lower Vineyard Creek. Wilderness designation would improve or maintain the natural character of these areas by excluding disturbing influences such as ORVs, rangeland improvements, and potential utility or transportation corridors. Lower sediment levels in Vineyard Creek would enhance the natural character of the area by improving the fisheries habitat for spawning hybrid cutthroat trout and the visual quality of the stream.

Off-road vehicle use would increase slightly as a result of lifting limitations on ORV use within a portion of the Snake River Rim Recreation Area. This increase would be moderated by a loss of some ORV opportunities in portions of Raven's Eye and Little Deer WSAs, which would be recommended as suitable for wilderness and closed to ORV activity.

Potential for developing a cross-country ORV trail between the Snake River Rim SRMA and Bear Trap Cave would be preserved. Tracts vital to development of the trail would be retained in Federal ownership.

Scenic quality in Cedar Fields would improve as a result of ORV limitations in the area. Future resource uses and proposals would be closely examined to prevent degradation of scenic quality in Vineyard Creek and Box Canyon.

Soils

Erosion would increase by 13 percent to an average 5.4 tons/acre/year. Of the 1,178,989 acres in the planning area, 38,936 acres (3 percent) would

have a severe erosion problem by the end of 20 years. This increase from present condition would be primarily due to increased livestock stocking rates, land treatments, and management facilities. These activities would reduce vegetation cover. In the case of land treatments, the actual effect would be short term at the time the vegetation and/or soil is disturbed. However, the effect has been averaged into the long term for this analysis. Erosion would be reduced on 1,968 acres of ORV closures or limitations, 1,700 acres by reducing wildfires, and on 150 acres of sand dunes proposed for seeding. Soil productivity could be reduced on 19,712 acres adjacent to and downwind from land transfers developed for agriculture. Appendix I contains a discussion about changes in erosion rates and the equations used to estimate erosion rates.

Minerals and Energy

Wilderness designation would restrict mineral activities on 67,889 acres. New mining claims would be prohibited after wilderness designation, as well as sale or free-use of mineral materials. Valid existing rights of mining claimants would be protected. Few locatable mineral resources have been identified to date. No significant mineral resources are known to occur within the WSAs recommended suitable. Energy mineral leasing activities could be restricted to protect wilderness character. Areas within WSAs are considered to have low potential for oil and gas and geothermal energy production and there has been little or no exploration activity.

Minor restriction of mining activity would result from ORV limitations on 2,240 acres of lands designated mineral in character in the Cedar Fields SRMA.

Minor restriction of mineral lease development would result from surface occupancy restrictions in Vineyard Creek ACEC, Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC, and Areas of Geologic Interest.

Material sites currently in use on 620 acres would be lost to public use by transfer. Three thousand five hundred acres of possible mineral material deposits would be lost by transfer. Loss of these material sites could cause considerable hardship and higher costs to highway departments and the public who depend upon these sites for mineral materials.

Transfer could create problems of split estate ownership, a situation where the surface is privately owned, but the subsurface mineral rights are Federally owned. This could make mineral exploration more complicated, time consuming, and expensive.

Economic Conditions

Appendix J contains a detailed comparison of the economic effects of each alternative.

Grazing-Related Economic Effects. By the end of 20 years, this alternative would generate additional income for the livestock permittees of \$971,000 annually. This is based on ranch budget results. The effects by size group are shown in Table 4-2. This would be a 73 percent increase over current income generated by BLM grazing use in the planning area. This would be less than a 1 percent increase in income to the agricultural sector of the economy. Grazing-related employment would increase by 53 jobs. This would be roughly a 1 percent increase in agriculture sector employment.

TABLE 4-2
LIVESTOCK INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGES
ALTERNATIVE B

Size Group	Proposed Grazing Use	Change in Use	Income Change	Employment Change
1	17,820	+ 6,198	+ \$115,283	+ 6.3
2	34,290	+11,927	+ \$221,842	+12.2
3	52,487	+18,256	+ \$339,562	+18.7
4	45,503	+15,827	+ \$294,382	+16.2
Total	150,100	+52,208	+ \$971,069	+53.4

The secondary (multiplier) effect of this alternative would add another \$605,200 in earnings to the local economy and an additional 33 jobs.

There would be a total of \$2,522,000 spent on range improvements under this alternative. This would convert to earnings of \$1,447,900 and 65 jobs. This would be short term in nature and the jobs would only last until the improvements were installed. In addition, there would be annual maintenance costs of \$42,100, which would convert to annual income of \$24,200. This would add one job to the local economy.

Grazing fee collections would be increased with this alternative in the following manner:

Range Improvement Fund	+ \$ 52,208
Federal Treasury	+ \$ 39,156
State of Idaho	+ \$ 13,052
Total	+ \$104,416

The total capital value of the AUMs gained would amount to between \$2.9 million and \$13.1 million.

Recreation-Related Economic Effects. By the end of 20 years, the annual direct and secondary income generated by recreation-related activities would increase by \$1.9 million over present levels. This would represent a 13 percent increase in retail trade earnings over present levels. There would be approximately 185 jobs added in recreation-related employment by year 20. This would be an increase of 13 percent over current retail trade employment.

Crop Agriculture-Related Economic Effects. Under this alternative, 43,510 acres would be developed for crop agriculture (5,330 Desert Land Act; 38,180 Carey Act). This would convert to 207 new farms with total revenues of \$22.6 million and total costs of \$22.3 million. Net revenue would amount to \$370,000. Approximately 1,242 new jobs would be generated (direct and secondary) from this development. Total earnings (direct and secondary) would amount to \$21.7 million.

Land Transfers. This alternative would have a land transfer benefit of \$3,506,900. Desert land and Carey Act transfers were not valued since the government gets virtually no payment for them and disposal of these tracts may or may not reduce operating costs. The economic value of such developments was estimated in the above discussion.

Fire Suppression. Annual fire suppression costs would total \$302,400. An additional \$6,000 would be spent to maintain roads for fire breaks and for getting equipment to fire locations.

Summary. Total earnings (direct and secondary) would be increased by \$25.2 million and employment by 1,513 jobs. The costs for range improvements and fire suppression would amount to \$476,600 annually. The livestock industry would receive significant benefits, partly at the expense of recreation-related activities. Major benefits would be reaped by the crop agriculture industry.

Alternative C

Fire Management

No change in acres burned and no change in number of fires are anticipated in this alternative. There would be an increase within the Sand Butte WSA (6 percent increase), but this would be offset by the increase in grazing (3 percent decrease) and the increase in road maintenance (3 percent decrease). The Sand Butte WSA has shown numerous starts in the area and has had three large fires within the area in the last 25 years. This has been with total suppression action. With no or limited action, the size and frequency of large fires should increase greatly. Efforts to keep fires originating outside the WSA from entering the WSA would increase suppression costs.

Increases would be averages measured on a long term basis. The number of fires and acres burned varies greatly from year to year.

Wildlife

Under this alternative, it is assumed only 5 of the 87 Isolated Tracts would be transferred from Federal ownership and converted to agricultural use. Other tracts would be dropped from the Isolated Tracts program but not transferred. The Bureau of Reclamation development would include five existing Isolated Tracts which would be managed by Reclamation for wildlife habitat. Some tracts would be added to the Isolated Tracts program. The net result would be 82 Isolated Tracts in the planning area.

Where specific numbers of animals are listed below, we anticipate that 50 percent of the change would occur within 5 years, and the remaining 50 percent within 20 years. Refer to Appendix C, "Methodology" for an explanation of how the numbers were derived.

Bliss Rapids Snail (Candidate Endangered). Under this alternative, the habitat of the snail would be afforded greater protection through designation of Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs and Vineyard Creek as ACECs. Even though other uses would be allowed, the type and degree of development would be limited so as not to deplete the habitat value for this species.

Ferruginous Hawk (Candidate Threatened). A population increase could be expected as a result of the placement of artificial nest structures. The

only known nest site plus excellent potential sites for nest structures would receive additional protection from disturbing influences of future developments if the Sand Butte and Raven's Eye WSAs are designated wilderness.

Swainson's Hawk (Candidate Threatened). An unknown population increase could be expected because the 82 wildlife tracts would be maintained in habitat suitable for this species. By maintaining a large number and variety of these tracts, chances of success in attracting breeding Swainson's hawks are increased.

Burrowing Owl (Sensitive). A net gain of eight breeding pairs could be expected. The positive effect of artificial nest site placement and burrow protection on the 82 Isolated Tracts would only be partially offset by transfer of habitat and conversion to agriculture. Some transfers would probably result in an improved habitat for this species by providing a greater prey base associated with certain agricultural crops. Transfers could also result in an increased availability of suitable nest sites through creation of rock piles in newly opened fields.

Shoshone Sculpin (Sensitive). Under this alternative, the habitat of the Shoshone sculpin would be afforded a greater degree of protection through designation of Box Canyon and Blueheart Springs as an ACEC. Even though other uses may be allowed, the type and degree of development would be limited so as not to deplete the habitat value for this sensitive species. ACEC designation would give priority to managing for the needs of the species.

Ring-Necked Pheasant. A net increase of 6,000 birds could be expected. Substantial population increases would result from protection and improvement of winter and nesting cover on Isolated Tracts and on Bureau of Reclamation transfer lands. There would be a smaller positive effect as a result of agricultural development on transfer lands that are not currently suitable pheasant habitat. Only part of these benefits would be offset by loss of habitat on other transfer lands.

Gray Partridge (Hungarian Partridge). A net increase of 1,000 birds could be expected for the same reasons as those cited for pheasants.

Sage Grouse. A net population increase of 1 percent could be expected. There would be an improved forb component in prescribed burn areas and in some seedings for livestock forage. These forbs would be made available to grouse by the creation of a mosaic of treated and untreated areas where

forage and cover would be in proximity. Development and implementation of a HMP for sage grouse would maintain high winter survival and improve brood rearing success.

Pronghorn. A net loss of 17 animals could be expected. Development and implementation of a HMP for pronghorn winter habitat would help increase winter survival. Development of a summer range HMP would also benefit pronghorn. Positive effects would result from seedings and brush protection on Isolated Tracts that would improve winter range and fawning cover. However, these would be offset by greater negative effects of the transfer of land, much of which is historic winter range.

Mule Deer. A net loss of six deer could be expected due to transfer of public lands and a loss of habitat for resident deer. Losses due to transfer would be greater, but those negative effects would be offset by seedings and brush protection on Isolated Tracts that would be of value to resident deer and some wintering animals. Implementation of a HMP for pronghorn winter range would benefit some wintering deer.

Hybrid Cutthroat/Rainbow Trout. Under ACEC designation, the spawning habitat of this unique population would receive greater attention than without such designation.

Non-Game Species. A net loss of 3,600 pairs of breeding birds could be expected as a result of the conversion of identified tracts to agricultural use. The increase expected on Isolated Tracts and in brush pocket protection areas would be too low to completely offset this loss.

Livestock Forage

Grazing Management. This alternative would result in 144,776 AUMs of livestock forage available in the long term. This would represent a 48 percent (46,884 AUMs) increase in use from the five-year average actual use and a 3 percent (4,359 AUMs) decrease from present active preference (149,135 AUMs).

There would be 9,781 AUMs lost due to land disposal and lands devoted to other public uses. Transfer of land from Federal ownership would significantly affect (more than 10 percent of active preference) 34 allotments and 56 permittees. Twenty-one allotments would be lost completely because of land transfer.

Reductions from active preference to bring grazing levels within carrying capacity would take place on seven allotments, for a total of 8,427 AUMs. This would affect 37 permittees.

An increase from present active preference of 10,264 AUMs would be realized from past management and land treatment in the short term. This would affect five allotments.

Wildfire would have a significant effect within the planning area. An average of 5,667 AUMs would be lost temporarily. This is a result of removing livestock for two growing seasons to allow for vegetation recovery.

An estimated 21,910 sheep AUMs would be converted to cattle AUMs. As a result, the amount of nonuse attributable to the continued decline of the sheep industry would be reduced.

There would be no significant impact on permittees in allotments proposed for new AMP or CRMP development. Six of these plans would be prepared to implement conversion of sheep to cattle. In these allotments, permittees would have to spend more time on maintenance of range improvements, but would spend much less time tending livestock. One of the plans would alter existing management and another would implement a new management system. In these allotments, permittees would have to spend some additional time on maintenance of range improvements and tending livestock. The remaining proposed AMPs or CRMPs would formalize existing management in an allotment.

See Table D-3 in Appendix D for allotment specific information.

Vegetation. A 48 percent increase in AUMs (from actual use) is proposed for this alternative. Seedings are proposed for 25,500 acres, and 19,000 acres of brush control are planned. Land treatments and other range developments would provide support for the increased forage demand and vegetation responses would be similar to those projected under Alternative B. The projected trends for Alternative C are:

Upward	20 percent
Stable	76 percent
Downward	4 percent

Changes in condition classes for this alternative would be limited to a shift from poor condition to seeded on 2 percent of the planning area. The expected condition class breakdown would be:

Good	2 percent
Fair	8 percent
Poor	68 percent
Seeded	22 percent

Refer to Appendix D, "Projecting Ecological Condition and Trend" for an explanation of how the projections above were derived.

The Substation Tract would be designated an ACEC in this alternative. Special management considerations could be implemented and significant scientific values would be preserved. Land disposal actions would prevent designation of the Silver Sage Playa as an ACEC. This action would cause loss of this relict area.

Proposed land treatments may have an effect on the Picabo milkvetch (Astragalus oniciformis), which is proposed for Federal listing as Endangered. Consultation procedures with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding impacts to this species will be followed prior to any treatments. No detriment is expected from proposed stocking levels.

Lands

Under this alternative, 52,827 acres could be transferred, including 2,500 acres now under DLE application and 24,455 acres now under Carey Act application. This does not include 3,751 acres to be developed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Other disposals include sales, exchanges, and R&PPs.

Desert Land Entry applications for 3,070 acres would be denied as would 13,965 acres under Carey Act application.

Impacts associated with lands disposals are the same as identified in Alternative A. Because of the greater amount of acreage involved, the impacts would, correspondingly, also be greater.

Land uses would be restricted to those compatible with wilderness management on 87,902 acres. For example, ORV use would be prohibited and no utility developments could be installed.

In addition to the wilderness acres discussed above, lands activities would be limited to those not involving motor vehicle use on 2,201 acres. For example, a right-of-way application might be denied or modified because motor vehicles could not be used to install or maintain developments.

Other non-transfer lands actions would continue under constraints set out in the resource management guidelines (see Chapter 2) and Standard Operating Procedures (see Appendix E) with the same general impacts identified in Alternative A.

Wilderness

Shale Butte WSA (57-2). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the

wilderness resource. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

The entire WSA is accessible to trailbike use and, except for a number of very rough areas, four-wheel drive vehicles. Recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit. Long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the WSA.

Livestock management would require the occasional use of vehicles on ways inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activities inside the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. Since fires occur frequently (one every five years) there is a fair chance that over the long term some damage to the wilderness resource due to fire suppression activities would occur. Fires would continue to create conditions that are unfavorable to vegetation that is representative of the potential natural vegetation for this area (Sagebrush-Steppe).

Sand Butte WSA (57-8). All of the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. If designated, wilderness resource values would be maintained throughout the WSA. Existing ways and roads inside the WSA would be used occasionally by motorized vehicles for the purpose of livestock management. This use would have a slight adverse impact on the wilderness values of solitude. Boundary roads would be improved and maintained to facilitate fire suppression. The wilderness value of naturalness would benefit from this since fewer fires would burn into the WSA from outside the unit and a more natural fire cycle could be established. However, restricted fire suppression inside the WSA could result in a larger average fire size for fires that start within the unit.

If Congress does not designate the area wilderness and it is dropped from further wilderness study, activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Although the entire WSA is accessible to trailbike use, and in a few areas close to existing roads and ways accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles, recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year)

in this unit. Long-term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use would increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the WSA.

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Fire suppression activity inside the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. Some portions of the WSA have fires fairly frequently (three times in the last 25 years), although most of the WSA has burned at a much lower frequency. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness.

Raven's Eye WSA (57-10). All of the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. If designated wilderness, resource values would be maintained throughout the WSA. Existing ways and roads inside the WSA would be used occasionally by motorized vehicles for the purpose of livestock management. This use would have a slight adverse impact on the wilderness values of solitude. Boundary roads would be improved and maintained to facilitate fire suppression. The wilderness value of naturalness would benefit from this since fewer fires would burn into the WSA from outside the unit and a more natural fire cycle could be established. However, restricted fire suppression inside the WSA could result in a larger average fire size for fires that start within the unit.

If Congress does not designate the WSA wilderness and it is dropped from further wilderness study, activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Approximately 47 percent of the WSA is accessible to trailbike use. A much smaller area, close to existing roads and ways, is accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Although recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit, long-term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use would increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in those portions of the WSA that are accessible.

Livestock management would require the occasional use of vehicles on ways and cherrystem roads inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining cliams exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activity on 47 percent of the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. The remainder of the WSA is so barren of vegetation that fires of more than an acre or two rarely occur. In addition, that part of the WSA is so rugged that fire suppression using heavy equipment would not be attempted. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness in those portions of the WSA accessible to heavy equipment.

Little Deer WSA (57-11). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Approximately 38 percent of the WSA is accessible to trailbike use. A smaller area close to existing roads and ways is accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Although recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit, long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in those portions of the WSA that are accessible.

Livestock management requires the occasional use of vehicles on ways and cherrystem roads inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activities on 38 percent of the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. The remainder of the WSA is so barren of vegetation

that fires of more than an acre or two rarely occur. In addition, that part of the WSA is so rugged that fire suppression using heavy equipment would not be attempted. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness in those portions of the WSA accessible to heavy equipment.

Bear Den Butte WSA (57-14). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. Activities such as off-road vehicle (ORV) use, livestock management, mining, and fire suppression could have adverse impacts on wilderness resources.

Approximately 56 percent of the WSA is accessible to trailbike use. A much smaller area close to existing roads and ways is accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles. Although recreational ORV use is presently low (less than 1,000 visits/year) in this unit, long term use trends for the region (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation 1977) indicate that ORV use could increase to levels that would have adverse impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in those portions of the WSA that are accessible.

Livestock management requires the occasional use of vehicles on ways inside the WSA for various management activities. This use would have a minor adverse impact on solitude values in the WSA.

Although no mining claims exist within the WSA at present, development of new claims or leases would have an adverse impact on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The potential for locatable or leasable minerals occurring in the WSA is low (Fredericksen and Fernette 1983), and the probability of damage to wilderness resources from mineral development is also low.

Fire suppression activities on 56 percent of the WSA could include the use of heavy equipment that would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness. The remainder of the WSA is so barren of vegetation that fires of more than an acre or two rarely occur. In addition, that part of the WSA is so rugged that fire suppression using heavy equipment would not be attempted. Given the fire history of this area, it is reasonable to assume that, over the long run, heavy equipment would be used in the unit for fire suppression. The use of this equipment would have an adverse impact on the wilderness value of naturalness in those portions of the WSA accessible to heavy equipment.

Shoshone WSA (59-7). None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness. This alternative would have no beneficial impacts on the wilderness resource. The only activity that would have an adverse impact on wilderness values is mining. The WSA is so rugged that it is not used by other activities such as livestock management, recreational ORV use, and fire suppression.