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Shoshone Field Office
Upper Snake River District
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Draft Amendments
to
Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans
for
Land Tenure Adjustment
and
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Environmental Assessment

(EA #: ID-076-2002-0004)

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Purpose and Need

Introduction

These land use plan amendments originated with the Bennett Hills Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was started in 1990. The Bennett Hills RMP would have replaced a portion of all the existing land use plans within what was then the Shoshone District - Bureau of Land Management (BLM). During the preparation period for that plan, numerous events occurred that led to a reconsideration of the scope of the Bennett Hills RMP. The BLM subsequently made a decision to amend all of the existing plans that direct management of the Upper Snake River District's Shoshone Field Office, but restrict the amendments to two issues: land tenure adjustment and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations.

The amendments planning process began with a "Notice of Intent to Prepare Land Use Plan Amendments," published in the *Federal Register* on December 15, 1999. Originally, the planning area contained the entire BLM Shoshone Field Office – approximately 1.8 million acres of public land. The recent expansion of Craters of the Moon National Monument on November 9, 2000, reduced the size of the planning area to 1.44 million acres. Future management of land now part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument, including the nominated Laidlaw Park ACEC, will be addressed in a separate land use plan being prepared by the BLM and the National Park Service (NPS).

Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Upper Snake River District (USRD) proposes to amend four land use plans to consider land tenure adjustment criteria and new designations of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) within the USRD's Shoshone Field Office area (see Map 1). The proposed action would amend the Magic Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1975), Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (1976), Sun Valley MFP (1982), and Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1985). [Note: As a result of administrative boundary reorganizations that occurred since completion of the Monument RMP, the eastern section of public lands administered under the Monument RMP are now managed by the Burley Field Office. The proposed amendments would only apply to the portion of the Monument RMP still within the management control of the Shoshone Field Office.] These four plans provide a framework for land use allocations and management of public lands within the 1.44 million-acre Shoshone Field Office area. The proposed amendments would replace existing land tenure adjustment decisions in those plans and make new ACEC designation and management decisions. Other management decisions in the current plans would remain unchanged.

Two actions proposed in the plan amendments (proposed designation of the Bennett Hills ACEC and the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA) would also amend the Jarbidge RMP (BLM 1987). The Jarbidge RMP provides management direction for public lands administered by the Four Rivers Field Office, Lower Snake River District, BLM.

The proposed land use plan amendments are in accordance with the BLM's authorizing legislation, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; 43 U.S.C. § 1701).

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purposes of and needs for this action are to:

- Establish new direction for land tenure adjustment within the Shoshone Field Office area.
- Make lands available for public purposes, including city, county, State, and Tribal purposes.
- Make decisions regarding ACECs nominations and management direction.
- Provide for planning consistency within the BLM's Shoshone Field Office management area.

Planning Issues Addressed

During scoping, the public, Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and BLM identified several areas of concern (see page 116 for a description of the public involvement process to date). The BLM took these concerns and fashioned them into statements (see below) which helped guide the development of the alternatives. The scope of the Shoshone plan amendments is limited to two planning issues: Criteria for land tenure adjustment and designation of new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). Each of the three alternatives to existing management analyzed in this document seeks to address these planning issues while simultaneously satisfying the four purpose and need statements listed above.

Land Tenure Adjustment: The existing land use plans, completed in the 1970s and 1980s, provide for specific actions on specific lands; many of these actions have been implemented. Several circumstances have indicated the need to amend the Shoshone Field Office's plans in order to provide up-to-date management direction for land tenure adjustment:

- Most pending land tenure adjustment proposals were not included in the existing plans, and many more proposals have been brought before the BLM since the plans were approved.
- Cities and counties in the planning area have indicated they would like BLM properties to be made available to meet local needs without going through lengthy plan amendments for each individual proposal.
- Tribal governments are concerned that reserved treaty rights and/or cultural resource considerations are not properly emphasized in existing land use plans. Tribal governments also want to be included as possible partners in land tenure adjustments, especially when public lands are identified in their aboriginal territory.
- None of the existing plans provides for today's community growth and development, nor do they allow BLM managers the flexibility they need to respond to changes in natural resources or increased demand for access to public lands.

FLPMA allows land use plans to be amended, and authorizes a number of methods to make land tenure adjustments (land exchanges, Recreation & Public Purposes (R&PP) patents, acquisitions, and sales) if certain criteria are met. The Shoshone land use plan amendments would establish criteria for making land tenure decisions that improve the manageability of public lands.

The following areas of concern related to land tenure adjustment were identified during scoping for the plan amendments:

- Is there a need to: (1) consolidate scattered public land, (2) dispose of lower resource value and/or scattered parcels, and (3) acquire lands in high resource value areas? If so, which areas are most important, what method of disposal and acquisition should be used, and which non-Federal lands should be acquired?
- Where lands are proposed for either disposal or acquisition, what criteria should be used to determine the desirability of the proposal?
- There are approximately 285,000 acres of land where the Federal government owns the mineral rights or a portion thereof, and where the surface estate is privately-owned. This has created uncertainty regarding development of both the private surface and the Federal minerals. Should the BLM attempt to consolidate the surface and sub-surface estate? If so, what criteria should be applied?
- The planning area contains many small parcels of public lands, some of which are isolated by canals, highways, and private lands. Some uses on these parcels are unauthorized, and other uses were authorized for only short periods of time pending future disposal. There is a need to provide long-term direction for these parcels of land.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): FLPMA defines an ACEC as an area “...*within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (43 U.S.C. § 1702 (a)).*”

Ten areas were nominated for ACEC designation. A detailed description of each of these nominated ACECs is located in *Appendix 3 – Evaluation of Nominated ACECs* (see pages 128-172). The BLM considered each nomination based on an evaluation of the nominated area’s relevance and importance and need for special management. Seven of the nominated ACECs met the criteria for relevance and importance and have been included in the alternatives analyzed in this document. [**Note:** More information on the BLM’s designation process for ACECs is found in *BLM Manual § 1613.1.*]

The following areas of concern related to ACECs designation were identified during scoping for the plan amendments:

- Do the nominated areas meet the established criteria regarding relevance and importance?
- Is designating an area as an ACEC the most appropriate avenue to provide special management for the identified resources?
- How will the BLM manage any area designated as an ACEC?

Consistency with Related Plans, Programs, and Policies

Federal regulations at 43 CFR § 1610.3-2 direct the BLM to develop plan amendments that are consistent with the officially approved and adopted resource-related plans, programs, and policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. During scoping and coordination with representatives of tribal, local, State, and Federal government, the BLM identified the following concerns which will be considered throughout the amendments planning effort. More details on the interests of local, State, and tribal governments are found in the Affected Environment chapter (see pp. 5-11).

Tribal Interests: The BLM is responsible for maintaining a formal government-to-government relationship with Federally-recognized Native American tribes. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have both rights to and cultural/historic affiliation with the lands in the planning area. The relationship between the Federal government and these Tribes focuses on ensuring the rights and/or interests of the Tribes are considered and protected, in accordance with relevant treaties, executive orders, legislation, and Federal policies. This includes consulting with Tribal representatives, identifying and protecting important archaeological, religious, and/or sacred sites, and providing Tribal members with appropriate access to these sites. The Tribes are also interested in the BLM acquiring lands which contain traditional cultural resources and are part of their aboriginal territory, as well as insuring that lands which go out of Federal ownership do not diminish their rights or traditional uses.

State of Idaho Interests: The State of Idaho is interested in land tenure adjustments that support the State's objectives. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) administers State lands to promote maximum economic returns. The Idaho Department of Lands has 51,000 acres of State land within the planning area that the Department would like to eventually consolidate through land exchanges with and acquisitions from the BLM. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) would also like to acquire aquifer recharge sites. The Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) has ongoing interests associated with management of public lands, particularly management of wildlife species and habitat.

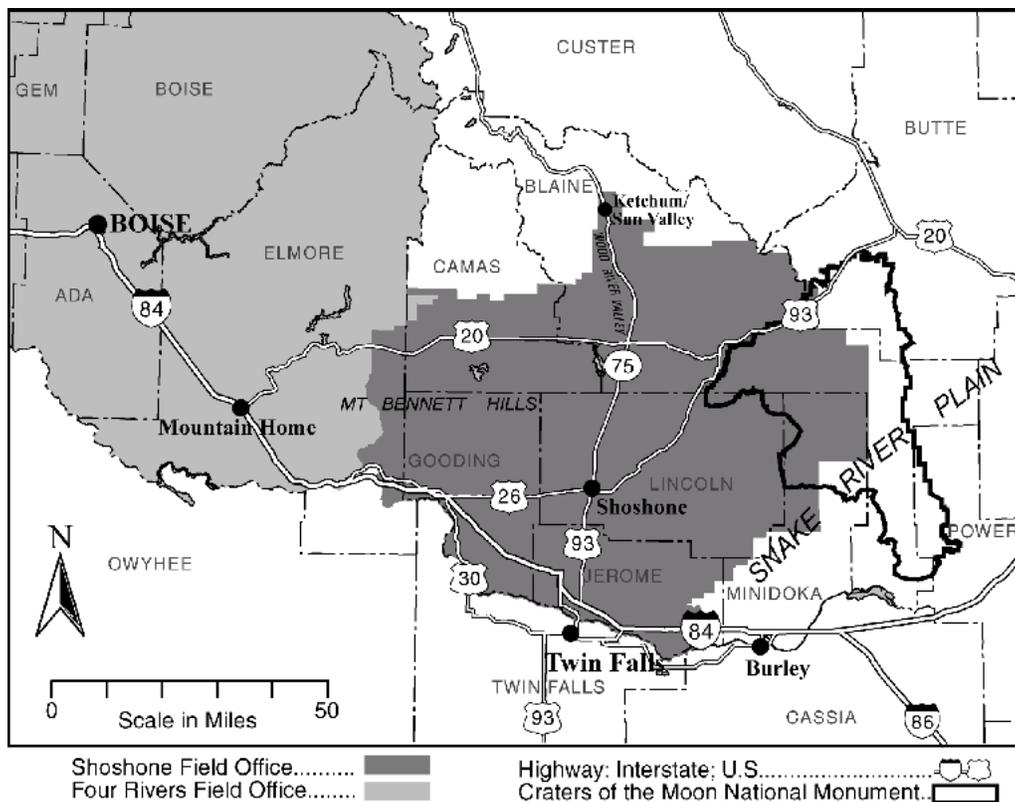
City and County Land Use Plans and Zoning Ordinances: In general, cities and counties within the planning area have management plans that encourage preservation of traditional multiple uses of natural resources, provide direction to strengthen economic development, and promote the orderly development of county resources. The BLM has many scattered parcels of land that the agency and local governments would like to see managed more efficiently, consistent to the extent possible with local planning and zoning ordinances.

Affected Environment

Project Area Description

The BLM’s Shoshone Field Office manages approximately 1.44 million acres of public lands in south-central Idaho (see map below and Map 2). Public lands comprise approximately 52% of the total land within the planning area, which lies within Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Elmore, and Minidoka counties. The 16 cities within the project area vary greatly in population, with permanent populations ranging from 150 persons in Dietrich, Idaho, to 7,780 persons in Jerome, Idaho (see *Appendix 4 - Population Information*, pp. 173-174). The planning area contains 20 areas with special management and/or designations that recognize nationally and locally important resources and values, including 14 Wilderness Study Areas comprising 159,506 acres, five ACECs totaling 18,963 acres, and four Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases totaling 943.01 acres. These designations total about 12.5% of the public lands managed by the BLM Shoshone Field Office. In addition, the planning area has nine eligible Wild and Scenic River segments totaling 88.3 stream miles.

Two actions proposed under Alternative 2 (proposed designation of the Bennett Hills ACEC and the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA) would affect approximately 1,220 acres of public lands managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM in the King Hill Creek area. Only part of this affected environment chapter pertains to those 1,220 acres -- namely, the paragraphs where the two nominated ACECs are discussed (including portions of Appendix 3). Resources and land uses in the Four Rivers Field Office portion of the nominated ACECs are essentially the same as those in the Shoshone Field Office portion.



Social and Economic Environment

Tribes Making Traditional Use of Public Lands in the Planning Area

Public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office are the ancestral homelands of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, as well as some of the bands/tribes of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in southeastern Idaho. Federally-recognized Indian tribes, including the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (the Tribes), have rights to and/or interests in public lands administered by the BLM. Both tribal groups are dependent upon the lands for a myriad of uses. The lands provide social and economic value to the American Indian people as well as spiritual and cultural uses. Through past discussions with the Tribes, the BLM is aware of their desire to capitalize on opportunities that maintain or enhance resources critical to the exercise of treaty rights, traditional customs, subsistence, and cultural use purposes. [Note: Whenever the term “the Tribes” is used in this document, it refers to both the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. If only one tribal group is meant, that group is specifically referred to by its entire name.]

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes’ current reservation includes 294,242 acres in Idaho and Nevada. The reservation is headquartered in Owyhee, Nevada, and the Tribal government is housed there. The principal revenue sources of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are farming and ranching. Business and land leases and grazing permits also provide income to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Like most reservation communities, the area is geographically isolated and economically depressed. The people are tied culturally and spiritually to the land, and they are very interested and involved in helping to shape how the land is managed by the BLM. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are particularly concerned about cultural

resources on public land, as well as subsistence, spiritual, and traditional uses. In 1992, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes reported approximately 1,700 members.



The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have reserved treaty rights under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 which extend to unoccupied Federal lands off-reservation. Reserved treaty rights typically include hunting, fishing, pasturing of animals (grazing), erecting of curing structures, trapping, and gathering. Their current reservation includes 544,000 acres in southeast Idaho. The Tribal government is headquartered in Fort Hall, Idaho. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes derive income from leases (business and land), mineral rights, and some agriculture. There are a number of tribal industries, and grazing permits also provide income to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are extremely interested in protection of the public lands and resources related to the exercise of their reserved treaty rights, as well as cultural resources, subsistence, spiritual, and traditional uses. In 1995, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes reported approximately 3,955 members; about 75 percent live on the reservation.



Local Economy and Society

The planning area contains sharp contrasts in geologic features and land uses, varying in terrain from remote lava flows (covering about 15% of the area), the scenic Snake River canyon, and virtually undeveloped shrub and grasslands, to irrigated fields and the internationally acclaimed recreation area of Sun Valley. Until approximately the 1970's, most of the area would have been described as uniformly agricultural, reflecting the focus on both grazing and farming. Farming practices have changed from highly inefficient canals, ditches, and gravity-fed systems to highly mechanized systems that generally require somewhat square parcels to operate pivots. In some cases, private landowners rely on the BLM to support these farming practices by authorizing agricultural uses of public lands. Today, lands in the planning area are also used for recreation, energy production and transmission, and telecommunications. Grazing has been a major land use since the late 1800's, and much of the Bennett Hills retains the original character as productive, native shrub lands. However, the vegetation in some areas nearer communities has been

altered from historic vegetation as a result of excessive grazing in the past and changes in fire frequency and severity during the last 50 years.

Demographics: When the major irrigation canals (Milner-Gooding, Northside, and Twin Falls) were built in the early to mid 1900's, an emphasis was placed on settling the Magic Valley and developing the agricultural industry. The population of the five major counties (Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln) within the area has grown by 235% since 1920. From 1980 to 2000 the population of these five counties has grown an average of 35%; since the 1990 census the population growth of these counties has ranged between 21 and 40% (see *Appendix 4 - Population Information*, pp. 173-174). The Wood River Valley (Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue, Idaho) continues to grow at a very high rate (40% since the 1990 census). This growth trend extends to southwestern Idaho, where the population of nearby Ada County (Boise, Idaho area) has grown at a rate of 46% since 1990. In contrast, the projected growth for the entire State of Idaho is 25% by 2015. Despite this regional population growth, most of the planning area is still rural, with approximately half of the population living outside cities (an exception is Blaine County, which contains a large population center within the Wood River Valley). Two counties that lie adjacent to or nearby the Shoshone Field Office area (Twin Falls County and Ada County) have large urban populations; these population centers have a definite influence on the economy and recreation uses of planning area.

Relationship of Demographic Changes to the Economy of the Planning Area: Population growth and advances in agricultural practices have contributed to today's private/public land ownership issues and the current land ownership pattern. Not only is the area growing in the number of residents, it has also become an international tourism and recreation destination. Just across the southern border of the planning area lies the rapidly growing community of Twin Falls, Idaho's seventh largest community. Twin Falls residents are increasingly using the public lands in the planning area as an outlet for a wide range of recreational and commercial pursuits. The result is an elevated interest in public lands use and access.

Land Tenure

Land ownership in the planning area is mixed, with State and private lands interspersed among the public lands (see Map 2). Lands administered by the Shoshone Field Office total 1.44 million acres, or 52% of the 2.77 million acres within the planning area boundary. Private lands account for approximately 1.2 million acres or 43% of the area, while State lands total 144,000 acres or 5%.

The three action alternatives described and analyzed in this Environmental Assessment (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) address several land tenure considerations, including State of Idaho interests (ownership consolidation through land exchanges, acquisition of aquifer recharge sites, future management of the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program), resolution of split mineral estate situations, resolution of future and long-standing unauthorized use cases, water rights, acquisition of access, and public lands available for potential disposal. The following paragraphs summarize the existing situation related to each of those concerns.

State of Idaho Interests:

Land Exchanges with the BLM - The BLM has been working with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) for several years to consolidate lands that mutually meet both agencies' needs. IDL has identified three acquisition priorities: communication sites in general, and two areas, one near Wendell, Idaho, and the other near Sid Butte in the vicinity of Kimama, Idaho. The area near Wendell is referred to locally as "Wendell Phase II" and would add to IDL's present block of land acquired in 1992 that was then referred to locally as "Wendell Phase I." The second acquisition priority area, near Sid Butte, is an estimated 4,500-acre area of public land mostly surrounded by private property. In both cases, IDL has indicated its interest in first offering isolated State sections within BLM retention areas (i.e., large blocks of existing public lands) in exchange for parcels near Wendell and Sid Butte. State exchange parcels have also been identified along the I.B. Perrine Bridge (northern access into the City of Twin Falls along Highway 93) and a 40-acre State parcel along the Snake River (T.10S., R.19E., Section 36, NENE). The Idaho Department of Lands would also like to divest itself of some parcels of State land in the Wood River Valley. If additional public lands are required to complete this land exchange, they may be made available from within the planning area where they have been identified for disposal through these plan amendments.

Aquifer Recharge Sites - The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) completed a "Feasibility of Large-Scale Managed Recharge of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer System" in December of 1999. This study described the potential of a managed aquifer recharge program to enhance management of water resources in the Upper Snake River Plain. Existing aquifer recharge sites within the planning area occur primarily on private land along major canals or rivers; the sites are recharged by floodwaters or surplus waters that flow in the fall after the farming season and before freezing temperatures begin. IDWR has identified numerous locations throughout Idaho they would like to utilize as recharge sites in addition to the sites that are already in use; some of these potential sites are on public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office. IDWR would like to acquire these public lands sites, rather than requesting long-term right-of-way grants from the BLM. The BLM would also like to dispose of these sites, rather than requiring IDWR to have long-term right-of-way grants. The Shoshone Field Office BLM currently authorizes one such use (through a Cooperative Agreement) on an existing recharge site in the Shoshone Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

IDWR's proposal for an aquifer recharge right-of-way (IDI-32771) on public lands along the Milner-Gooding canal has been analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA # ID076-2001-0021). A decision notice issued on 8/2/00 documented the BLM's acceptance of IDWR's proposal; however, final approval of this recharge site is pending an agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Isolated Wildlife Tract Program - Before agricultural development, the Snake River Plain of south-central Idaho provided extensive habitat to support a variety of native wildlife. Due to the loss of native habitat as a result of agricultural development during the early to mid 1900s, the remaining wildlife tracts are crucial to the survival of upland native and non-native game birds, waterfowl, big game, and watchable wildlife. The BLM and IDFG recognized the importance of these remaining tracts and formed a Cooperative Wildlife Management Program (CWMP) through the Sikes Act of 1960 (P.L. 93-452) for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat. The Shoshone Field Office presently has 88 tracts being cooperatively managed between BLM and IDFG under the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program.

Split Estate Mineral Values: Approximately 20% of the public lands within the Shoshone Field Office area involves split estate mineral values. Through various acts, the federal government has retained mineral values, while encouraging settlement. As late as the 1980's, BLM policy concerning mineral estate was to reserve all oil and gas rights as well as any other mineral values. Current BLM policy is to not split estates when completing a land tenure transaction. As a result, there are currently 285,000 acres of split estate, which involves everything from a reservation for all minerals, to oil and gas only, with private surface ownership. The management of the existing split estate has been, and continues to be, a challenge. Many of the private surface owners have requested that the sub-surface minerals be sold or transferred into their ownership.

Authorized and Unauthorized Land Uses: When the Bennett Hills RMP was initiated in 1990, more than 200 temporary land use permits were authorized for various agricultural uses until the RMP could be completed and the lands evaluated for disposal. The permits were originally written for a five year period. About 45 land use permits have been renewed and still exist today, waiting for the outcome of this current planning effort. Another 21 applications through the Desert Land Entry and Carey Acts await processing. Approximately 200 recorded unauthorized uses, and a similar number of known un-recorded unauthorized uses, await resolution. The BLM expects a large number of cases are as yet unknown where land is being used without BLM authorization. Workload priorities and limited staffing usually require these types of cases to go unresolved until they can be included in additional activities on the same parcel, unless the unauthorized use is causing or has the potential to cause a public safety issue or resource damage. Many of these cases date back to a time before the BLM existed. Most unauthorized uses are unintentional and many of the affected areas have little, if any, public resource values left after so many years. Therefore, it would be beneficial to resolve these cases for the benefit of the BLM, the public, and the long-time users.

Water Rights Policy: The Idaho BLM’s water rights policy has been changing and continues to change with the on-going process of the Snake River Basin Adjudication effort. All future actions involving water rights shall adhere to the State of Idaho and BLM State-wide water rights policies. (Older existing permits are silent on the water rights issue; as new applications are received and old permits are renewed, language implementing current Idaho water rights policy is included.)

Access: Currently, access needs are prioritized and subsequently worked on when there are landowners who are willing to participate in the acquisition. Sometimes access acquisition can take more than ten years to complete. Blaine County (more specifically, within the Wood River Valley) is actively seeking to acquire and ensure public access through a variety of avenues, but usually through private land development plans and BLM land exchange efforts. Today, the BLM’s acquisition priorities are in the areas of the Wood River Valley, Camas Prairie, and Magic Reservoir. However, it has not been a priority for the Shoshone Field Office to develop access opportunities, implement physical access after legal access is acquired, or monitor use impacts in newly accessible areas.

Lands Available for Potential Disposal: The public lands that are currently available and identified for potential disposal in the existing planning documents (approximately 49,000 acres) are shown on Map 2 and listed in *Appendix 6* (see pages 177-187). Many of the lands still identified for disposal appear to be from individual requests for parcels that were made many years ago. Many of these parcels will not meet the needs of the public today or improve management of the public lands. In fact, some would produce isolated tracts. These amendments will reconsider all of the existing lands currently identified for disposal.

On July 25, 2000, Congress passed the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), PL 106-248. Lands identified for disposal in land use plans as of that date may be sold or exchanged under FLTFA, and the monies received from sales or exchanges will be retained in an account and can be used by the BLM and other Federal agencies to purchase additional lands; they are not deposited in the General Treasury. All of the lands identified for disposal in the current Shoshone Field Office land use plans are eligible under FLTFA (see Appendix 6 and Map 2).

Nominated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Ten ACECs totaling 385,235 acres and including 15.3 miles of streams were nominated for consideration in this planning effort. An ACEC designation must meet stringent criteria of relevance and importance and the need for special management attention, as established in 43 CFR 1610.7-2. These criteria are described in the “Alternatives” section of this Environmental Assessment (see pages 32-33), and a complete evaluation of each nominated ACEC is provided in Appendix 3 (see pages 128-172). A summary of the resource values for each ACEC, *as identified by the nominator*, is shown below in Table 1. Appendix 3 contains a detailed description of each nominated ACEC.

Table 1: Summary of ACEC Nominations

<i>ACEC Name</i>	<i>Nominating Entity</i>	<i>ACEC Size</i>	<i>Resource Values Cited in the Nomination</i>
Bennett Hills	Committee for Idaho’s High Desert	381,471 acres	Geology, scenic, cultural, recreational, critical habitats, redband trout.
Big Wood/ Warm Springs	City of Ketchum	236 acres	Scenic, fish, wildlife, and protective management from proposed development.
Camas Creek	BLM*	420 acres, including 1.5 miles of stream reaches	Low elevation riparian reference area.
Coyote Hills	BLM*	49,062 acres	Cultural resources and associated settings.
Dry Creek	Idaho Natural Area Coordinating Committee	869 acres, including 3.8 miles of stream reaches	Riparian habitat.
Fir Grove	The Nature Conservancy	45 acres	Isolated Douglas-fir community.
King’s Crown	The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Natural Heritage Program	10 acres	Undisturbed plant community.
King Hill Creek	BLM*	2,880 acres, including 10 miles of stream reaches	Redband trout and riparian habitat.
McKinney Butte	BLM*	3,764 acres	Scenic, crucial bat habitat, geologic, fragile and pristine cave environment.
Tee-Maze	BLM*	10,762 acres	Scenic, crucial bat habitat, geologic, fragile and pristine cave environment.

* All of the BLM nominations were initially made during the Bennett Hills RMP planning effort.

Other Affected Programs and Resources

Archaeological, Historical, and Ethnographic Resources

The BLM is responsible for identifying, protecting, managing, and enhancing archaeological, historic, architectural, and traditional lifeway values located on BLM public lands, as well as those that might be affected by BLM undertakings on non-Federal lands. The BLM manages archaeological remains, historic values, and traditional lifeway values important to Native American groups.

Some of the legislation and implementing regulations governing cultural resource management include the following: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), as amended; the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA); and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) states that public lands will be managed in a manner “that will protect the quality of...historical...and archaeological values”; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and NHPA provide the objective to coordinate plans and functional programs and resources so as to preserve and protect important cultural resources early in the project planning process. Traditional lifeway values are usually identified through consultation with tribal officials. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), NHPA, and certain treaty rights guarantee access, use, and protection of traditional cultural properties, religious sites, and sacred objects.

Cultural Resource Inventories

Cultural resources are generally identified through field inventories conducted by qualified professionals in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). Informant information and historical records are also used to identify archaeological, historical, and traditional lifeway values.

Three types of inventories - Class I, II, and III - have been conducted to identify and assess cultural values on BLM lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office. A Class I inventory (literature review) was completed in 1982 as part of a larger study that included the Boise and Shoshone management areas. A Class II sample design inventory was conducted in the Bennett Hills in 1974 and 1975 by Idaho State University archaeologists. Approximately 94,720 acres were inventoried during this effort. Several smaller Class III, intensive inventories have been completed to fulfil Section 106 responsibilities. These inventories were associated with project activities where sites needed to be identified and evaluated in order to protect significant values and minimize effects on those values. Over the years, several different universities have also conducted Class III inventories that were not associated with any specific project, thus expanding the Shoshone Field Office’s information base. It is estimated that roughly 4% (57,600 acres) of the public lands within the Shoshone Field Office have been intensively inventoried for cultural resources.

Prehistoric and Historic Sites

There are approximately 1,300 known, recorded cultural resources sites within the Shoshone Field Office area, representing a variety of types and chronological periods, dating from at least 9,000 years old to the present. Identified prehistoric sites include lithic scatters, quarries, rockshelters, rock structures and piles, and pictographs/petroglyphs.

Historic sites within the Field Office include portions of the North Side Alternate National Historic Trail and Goodale's Cutoff National Historic Trail, both alternative routes of the Oregon Trail, as well as shepherd camps, cairns, and dumps. A few stock-raising homestead claims were filed in the 1890's and early 1900's, but the environment proved too harsh for many of them to succeed so most were canceled. During the early days of Euro-American settlement in southern Idaho, sheep and cattle grazing were the predominate economic pursuit in this area. During the 1880's, silver, gold, and lead mining also took place in the Wood River Valley and the mountains just north of the Field Office management area on Sawtooth National Forest lands.

Native American Traditional Values

Native American Indians subsisted on the lands within the Shoshone Field Office for thousands of years. Existing ethnographic information generally suggests that aboriginal populations constantly traversed the Snake River Plain during their seasonal subsistence rounds, moving to the Camas Prairie in the spring and then further into the mountains for the summer. In the fall, they would return to the Snake River for the winter (Steward 1938). The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes still hunt game and gather on BLM lands today. They continue to ascribe cultural value to the Snake River corridor and the Camas Prairie.

Cultural Resources Condition and Trend

Cultural resources condition and trend within the Shoshone Field Office varies considerably due to the variability of terrain and geomorphology, access and visibility, and past and current land use. Exposed artifacts and features on the ground surface can be disturbed by elements such as wind and water erosion, animal and human intrusion, and development and maintenance activities. Based on limited site visitation and site form documentation, the trend of site condition within the Shoshone Field Office is considered stable in most areas. Vandalism and unauthorized collection at sites constitutes the main source of cultural resource degradation

Looting of archaeological sites has been occurring for some time, especially in the remote, hard to reach regions and poor condition public lands with predominately annual grass cover, especially right after a wildfire. With the advent of Internet auctions, illegal artifact collection is becoming more profitable than ever. As long as there is a market for such items, looting will continue to be problematic.

Cave Resources

The Upper Snake River District (USRD), BLM, contains the largest known concentration of caves in the State of Idaho and one of the largest concentrations of caves within the BLM's national jurisdiction. USRD caves are predominantly lava tubes, blisters, shelters, or fissures formed in basaltic lava fields. Because of unique physical and environmental conditions, caves are one of the District's most sensitive and unusual resources. All of these resources are recognized as fragile, and some are considered non-renewable. For example, fragile resources in area caves include ground water hydrologic systems, Townsend's big-eared bat colonies, and cave-adapted invertebrates. Non-renewable resources include paleontological deposits, cave formations, and cultural resources. USRD caves have suffered degradation of fragile resources and loss of non-renewable resources from intentional or unintentional human actions such as disturbance of bat habitat, toxic material dumping, and damage to cave formations.

There are 90 known caves on public lands within the planning area. A total of 70 of these caves have been found to possess the values, characteristics, or features to be designated as “significant” based on the criteria contained in Federal cave management regulations (43 CFR 37). A significant determination is an internal administrative action guided, in part, by comments and information provided by interested and affected members of the public. The 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, the Federal cave regulations, and BLM cave management policy (Manual Section 6380) provide guidance for cave resources management and protection. The recently completed Upper Snake River District Cave Resources Management Plan (USDI - BLM, 1999) further describes the BLM’s management focus for caves originating on public lands in the District. In conformance with the appropriate Federal regulations and policies, all caves within special management areas designated wholly or in part due to cave resources shall be determined to be significant. [Note: A copy of the Cave Resources Management Plan is available upon request by contacting the Shoshone Field Office - BLM.]

Forest Resources

Forest lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office include 15,200 acres classified as commercial forest land (land capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood/acre/year) and an additional 1,300 acres of woodland (aspen, juniper, etc.). These stands range in size from 5 acres to 570 acres. Species represented are Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, juniper, and cottonwood. The average stand age is approximately 100 years. In general, the conifers occur in the northern half of the planning area and usually on north and northeast facing slopes where it is cooler and more moist. The deciduous stands occur throughout the planning area where more moisture occurs such as riparian zones, seeps, or springs.

Because forest vegetation comprises only a small portion of habitats in the Field Office area (about one percent of the 1.44 million public acres in the planning area), these resources are not harvested extensively for commercial purposes. However, from 1948 to 2000 there were 11 forest product (poles, sawlogs, and house logs) sales ranging in size from 5 acres to 180 acres (total of 600 acres harvested). In September 2001 a helicopter thinning sale in Martin Canyon was sold; this sale will treat a total of 663 acres in four separate harvest units and was done in cooperation with the fuels management and wildlife management programs. The purposes of the Martin Canyon sale are to increase tree health and vigor; preserve and protect the integrity of old growth structure; increase the aspen, willow and maple components of the stand; reduce competition for water, nutrients, and light; reduce the opportunity for the epidemic spread of insects, disease, and catastrophic fire; provide forest products to the market place; and improve elk, deer, and ruffed and blue grouse habitat.

A healthy forest plant community supports a variety of wildlife. Forest vegetation also provides important thermal and security habitat for big game species (primarily mule deer and elk). Mule deer and elk utilize forest habitats extensively for fawning and calving in the spring. Many of the north-facing timber areas are interspersed with crucial big game winter ranges on south-facing slopes. The forested areas provide important thermal cover during winter months.

Blue grouse, an upland game bird, also utilize forested habitats in the planning area. The conifer forest is particularly important to these birds during the winter. Blue grouse roost in the conifers and feed primarily upon conifer needles during the winter. During the summer, blue grouse prefer aspen communities, forest openings, and riparian areas that are vegetated with grasses, forbs, and shrubs. There they nest, raise their broods, and feed upon insects, fruits, and leaves.

Livestock Grazing

The Shoshone Field Office manages livestock grazing use on 206 allotments. Eighty allotments (approximately 39%) also contain State lands. Grazing use is authorized for 222 permittees and a total of 206,952 AUMs. Grazing use is permitted for 44,789 cattle (134,971 AUMs or 65.2% of total permitted use), 102,685 sheep (71,513 AUMs or 34.5% of total permitted use), and 129 horses (468 AUMs or .3% of total permitted use).

Minerals (Leasable, Locatable, Saleable)

The following discussion of minerals resources is limited to those areas proposed for ACEC designation under one or more alternatives, since the ACEC designations would be accompanied by management actions restricting future minerals exploration and development. Minerals concerns related to land tenure adjustments and other lands actions would be addressed at the project level.

Bennett Hills ACEC: Locatable Minerals - The locatable mineral potential is very high due to the existence of known locatable mineral deposits (platy lava rock of Black Butte, diatomaceous earth of Clover Creek, and pumice from pre-1955 claims adjacent to State Highway 20 east of Moonstone Ranch). The likelihood that there is a significantly large deposit of locatable minerals in the proposed ACEC is very low because the rock types and geology are not conducive to the formation of typical locatable minerals such as gold and silver. Leasable Minerals - There are no mineral leases in the proposed ACEC. The potential for oil, natural gas, and coal is very low due to unfavorable rock types and geology. The northeast portion of the proposed ACEC includes acreage that is within the Camas Prairie Known Geothermal Resource Area and also includes a geothermal well and hot springs at Hot Springs Landing on the north end of Magic Reservoir. The western portion of the proposed ACEC includes one hot spring located on Hot Creek west of State Highway 46. The potential for hot springs within the proposed ACEC is very high due to the existence of two known hot springs and the close proximity to the Camas Prairie Known Geothermal Resource Area on the north and the hot springs on the White Arrow Ranch to the south. The potential for geothermal wells is also very high due to the existing geothermal well at Hot Springs Landing on the north side of Magic Reservoir, the presence of the Camas Prairie Known Geothermal Area to the north, the hot spring on Hot Creek west of State Highway 46, and the geothermal activity at White Arrow Ranch adjacent to the ACEC to the south. Saleable Minerals - The proposed ACEC includes one community pit for decorative platy lava rock, one community pit for river rock, one community pit for decomposed granite, one common use area for decomposed granite, one common use area for rip rap, one common use area for stackable blocky lava rock, one common use area for landscape rock, one exclusive mineral material sale site for stackable blocky lava rock, a free use permit for river gravel, four free use permits for gravel, one free use permit for decomposed granite, and a pumice deposit that is now considered to be a saleable mineral. The potential for saleable minerals within the ACEC is very high due to the numerous existing sites, favorable rock types and geology.

Camas Creek ACEC/RNA: Locatable Minerals - The proposed ACEC area has four active placer mining claims, but no existing mine at the claim sites. There is medium potential for locatable minerals due to the presence of active mining claims and the proximity of the Hailey Gold Belt to the north. However, there is no known history of mining in the proposed ACEC area. Leasable Minerals - There are no mineral leases in the proposed ACEC. The potential for oil, natural gas, and coal is very low due to unfavorable rock types and geology. There are no known geothermal wells or springs in the proposed ACEC. However, the potential for geothermal water in wells is high because the site falls within the boundary of the Camas Prairie Geothermal Area and is in close proximity to surface hot springs. Saleable

Minerals - The BLM has no community pits, common use areas, free use permits, or exclusive mineral material sale sites in the proposed ACEC. The potential for salable minerals is high due to favorable rock types and geology; however due to the small size of the proposed ACEC and the vast amount of BLM land nearby, any mineral material actions could be conducted from nearby BLM land outside the proposed ACEC.

Coyote Hills ACEC: Locatable Minerals - Due to the absence of active mining claims, the lack of history of mining activity, and the unfavorable rock types and geology there is a low potential for locatable minerals in the proposed ACEC. Leasable Minerals - There are no mineral leases in the proposed ACEC. The potential for oil, natural gas, and coal is very low due to unfavorable rock types and geology. There are no known geothermal wells or springs in the ACEC area. The eastern section has low potential for geothermal activity, while the western portion has medium potential for geothermal water due to its proximity to known geothermal hot springs and wells. Saleable Minerals - The proposed ACEC area has two free use permits for gravel and a common use area for the sale of landscape boulders. The potential for saleable minerals within the proposed ACEC is very high due to the known surface deposits, favorable rock types, and geology. Any likely future development would be adjacent to an existing road. Many areas within the proposed ACEC will likely not be exploited due to the remoteness of most locations and the lack of access to a local market.

Dry Creek ACEC/RNA, King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA, McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA: Locatable Minerals - Due to the absence of active mining claims, lack of history of mining activity, and the unfavorable rock types and geology, there is a low potential for locatable minerals in these proposed ACEC areas. Leasable Minerals - There are no mineral leases in the proposed ACEC areas. The potential for oil, natural gas, and coal is very low due to unfavorable rock types and geology. There are no known hot springs or geothermal wells in the proposed ACEC areas. The potential for hot springs is low because of the absence of known hot springs on the surface. The potential for the occurrence of geothermal wells is medium because the ACEC areas are located between known geothermal resource areas. Saleable Minerals - The BLM has no mineral material sites in the proposed ACEC areas. The potential for salable minerals is high due to favorable rock types and geology. However, due to the large amount of nearby BLM land, any proposed sales or permits could be conducted from similar sites on adjacent BLM lands.

Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA: Locatable Minerals - Although there are mining claims within the proposed ACEC and mining claims on three sides of the proposed ACEC, there is probably no viable locatable mineral within the boundary of the proposed ACEC. The potential for locatable minerals in the proposed ACEC is low because the rock type and geology is not conducive to the formation of locatable minerals. Leasable Minerals - There are no mineral leases within the proposed ACEC. The potential for oil, natural gas, and coal is very low due to unfavorable rock types and geology. There are no known hot springs or geothermal wells within the proposed ACEC. The potential for hot springs is very low because none are known to exist on the surface, and the potential for geothermal water from a drilled well is low because the site is not close to or within a known geothermal area. Saleable Minerals - The proposed ACEC area has one mineral material sale site and one common use sale area - both for surface removal of stackable blocky lava rock. The potential for saleable minerals is very high due to known existing sites and favorable rock types and geology.

Off-highway Vehicle Use

This discussion focuses on existing OHV use within areas proposed for ACEC designation, because the plan amendments only propose changes to OHV use within those areas.

All public lands within the seven ACECs proposed in these plan amendments (Bennett Hills, Camas Creek, Coyote Hills, Dry Creek, King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze) are presently managed under the Bennett Hills/Timmerman MFP (see Maps 1 and 4). Existing management allows cross-country motorized vehicle use throughout the Bennett Hills planning unit, except within designated Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). OHV use in the WSAs is limited to roads, vehicle ways, and trails that existed at the time of wilderness inventory. The proposed ACECs would include public lands within the following WSAs: King Hill Creek, Deer Creek, Gooding City of Rocks West, Gooding City of Rocks East, Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Black Butte. A very small, unquantifiable amount of cross country OHV use occurs in the Bennett Hills area. This use is primarily associated with all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) used for big game hunting (including game retrieval) and horn (antler) hunting. A negligible amount of snowmobile use also occurs in the area.

Paleontological Resources

There is no legislative or regulatory direction for the management of paleontological resources, but BLM policy is set forth in Manual 8270, Paleontological Resource Management, and the associated handbook H-8270-1. Additional authorities governing management of paleontological resources are provided by NEPA, FLPMA, various CFR sections, and other authorities. NEPA requires that all resources, including paleontological resources, be given full consideration in the environmental assessment and planning process. FLPMA requires that the public lands be managed to protect scientific and other values, and allows for the issuance of permits for collection of paleontological resources.

No systematic paleontologic inventories have been conducted in the planning area. However, the value of paleontologic resources in USRD caves is considered highly significant (McDonald and McGrady, 1999). The only known fossil records from the central Snake River Plain are from lava tube caves and pits. Random discoveries and isolated scientific excavations have documented extinct or extirpated species from the Pleistocene (1.8 million years ago to 8,000 years ago) through the Holocene (8,000 years ago to the present) epochs. A partial listing of the animal remains which have been identified include camel, mammoth, bison, short-faced bear, dire wolf, grizzly bear, muskox, wolverine, pine martin, lynx, black-footed ferret, and lemming (White *et. al.*, 1984). The skeletal remains of many of these animals have been found on public lands in the planning area.

Recreation and Visitor Access

Recreation visitor days within the area exceed 900,000 days annually. An additional 435,000 visitors per year are expected to travel through the planning area to other recreation destinations outside the area (see *Appendix 5 - Recreation Data*, p. 176).

Access to public lands in the Wood River Valley is an important issue, and maintaining or adding access to BLM or National Forest lands is of great interest to local residents. The BLM and Forest Service jointly manage the Bald Mountain Ski Area, which is an integral part of the skiing infrastructure of the Sun Valley area. Public lands are a gateway to, and provide overflow capacity for, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Sawtooth National Forest lands during all seasons. Recreation activities on lands in the Wood River Valley include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. The area receives about 338,000 visitor days annually (see *Appendix 5 - Recreation Data*). Residents and local governments have a strong interest in protecting the existing public lands, and in the potential to potentially add public lands to that base through acquisitions, easements, and land exchanges. Local governments also have an interest in acquiring public lands for local community use through the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act.

Craters of the Moon National Monument, another regional attraction, has grown in popularity. Even before the Monument was expanded from 54,000 to 715,000 acres, the area received more than 250,000 visitors a year. The Monument now encompasses the Great Rift, one of two geologic rift formations in the world, and has received recent recognition from international visitors through local tourism efforts. With the expansion, the BLM and National Park Service can now expect an increase in international recognition of the exceptional geologic and biological values this monument has to offer.

The planning area has recorded large numbers of in-state and out-of-state visitors for recreational adventures. Magic Reservoir, with 135,000 visitor days annually (see *Appendix 5 - Recreation Data*), is the fifth-highest recreational use reservoir in Idaho. The Bennett Hills supports a very large number of mule deer, which attract many hunters. Other attractions within the planning area include Shoshone Falls and the Class II to V rapids on the Mid-Snake River (Murtaugh Reach is regarded as one of the premier white-water day trips in the Pacific Northwest), the internationally-recognized fisheries of Silver Creek, and segments of the Oregon National Historic Trail. The recreation use and tourism of these and other attractions are largely supported by population centers outside the area in addition to local residents. The largest concentrated population base within the planning area is the Wood River Valley. Larger cities such as Twin Falls and Boise, Idaho, and Salt Lake City, Utah, fall outside the planning area boundary; however, residents of these cities utilize the opportunities offered here and provide a major economic contribution.

Special Status Species

Appendix 7 (pp. 188-192) contains the most recent list of special status plant and animal species known or suspected to occur in the Shoshone Field Office area. [**Note:** This species list is dynamic, since species are added to or dropped from special status periodically as new information becomes available. Any statements in this document referring to the term “special status species” would include all species on the *most current* special status species list for the Shoshone Field Office area.]

The following species are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act:

Gray Wolf - The gray wolf once occurred throughout much of Idaho. However, it was listed in Idaho and other states as Endangered in 1978 and re-introduced in central Idaho in 1994. The most recent sighting in the Shoshone Field Office area was when a wolf was killed in the winter of 2001/2002 about five miles east of King Hill Creek. The successful translocation of wolves in central Idaho coupled with recent sightings of a pack of wolves in the Stanley Basin makes it more likely that wolves may occur in the Shoshone Field Office area in the future.

Canada Lynx - The Canada lynx was listed as Threatened in Idaho and other states in 2000. BLM-managed lands north of Highway 20, especially those in close proximity to National Forest Lands, may contain habitat conditions suitable for Canada lynx denning, foraging, movement, and dispersal activities. The most recent sightings occurred in 1984 in the general vicinity of Bellevue, Idaho.

Bald Eagle - The bald eagle was listed as Endangered in 1978 and downgraded to Threatened status in 1995. The bald eagle is a common winter visitor to the Shoshone Field Office area, being associated primarily with the Snake River and to a lesser extent to some of the Snake River's principal tributaries such as the Clover Creek and Big Wood River drainages.

Bull Trout - The bull trout was listed as Threatened in Idaho and other states in 1998. Bull trout currently inhabit portions of the South Fork of the Boise River watershed. Lime Creek and its tributaries are considered historic bull trout habitat. However, recent field surveys by the BLM, USFS, and IDFG have failed to collect any bull trout in the Lime Creek watershed.

Bliss Rapids Snail - The Bliss Rapids snail was listed as Threatened in 1992. Known river populations only occur in spring-influenced habitat near the edge of mainstem rapids. At present, the Bliss Rapids snail exists as a discontinuously distributed population along 204 miles of the Snake River. Most individuals occur in the Hagerman reach, in the tailwaters of Bliss and Lower Salmon Falls dams.

Idaho Springsnail - The Idaho springsnail was listed as Endangered in 1992. At present, this snail only occurs as a discontinuously distributed population in permanent, flowing waters of the mainstem Snake River, from the headwaters of C.J. Strike Reservoir at mile 518, upstream to approximately river mile 553 (Bancroft Springs).

Utah Valvata Snail - The Utah Valvata snail was listed as Endangered in 1992. The snail lives in deep pools adjacent to rapids or in perennial flowing waters associated with large spring complexes. At present, the snail occurs in the Shoshone Field Office area within a few springs and at mainstem Snake River sites in the Hagerman Valley.

Snake River Physa Snail - The Snake River Physa snail was listed as Endangered in 1992. The snail is found mainly in Gooding County, Idaho, along the Snake River. It is believed that much of the habitat for the species is in deep water beyond the range of routine sampling. The snail remains at only a few locations in the Hagerman and King Hill reaches of the Snake River.

Banbury Springs Limpet (Lanx) - The Banbury Springs limpet (lanx) was listed as Endangered in 1992. The limpet has only been found in spring-run habitats with well-oxygenated, clear, cold waters on boulder or cobble substratum, with relatively swift currents. At present, the limpet is only known to occur in three,

minimally disturbed spring habitats at Banbury Springs, Box Canyon Springs, and Thousand Springs between Snake River miles 584.8 and 589.4.

Ute Ladies Tresses - The Ute ladies tresses was listed as Endangered in 1992. Since 1996, extensive field surveys have been conducted throughout most of Idaho, with no documented occurrences in the Shoshone Field Office area.

Two of the BLM Sensitive species listed in Appendix 7 (Interior redband trout and Townsend’s Western big-eared bat) are specifically identified for special management attention through the King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA designations proposed in these plan amendments.

The following table summarizes the general habitat preferences of many of the BLM Sensitive bird species known or suspected to occur in the Shoshone Field Office area.

General Habitats of BLM Sensitive Bird Species				
Sagebrush	Grassland	Wetlands	Riparian	Forest
Ferruginous hawk Peregrine falcon Sage grouse * Loggerhead shrike * Brewer’s sparrow * Sage sparrow * Sharp-tailed grouse	Ferruginous hawk Sharp-tailed grouse	White-faced Ibis Bald eagle * Peregrine falcon Trumpeter swan	White-faced Ibis Bald eagle * Sage grouse * Black tern Willow flycatcher * Virginia’s warbler	Bald eagle * Northern goshawk Peregrine falcon White-headed woodpecker Willow flycatcher Mtn. quail (brush)
* Species most likely to be encountered on public lands in the Shoshone Field Office area. This list does not include “watch species,” which are species for which there is insufficient information to justify listing them as BLM Sensitive.				

These associations represent only the most likely habitats in which the above-listed BLM Sensitive species may be found. They may breed in, or otherwise require, more specialized micro-habitats. BLM Sensitive mammals in the planning area require forest habitats, except for the pygmy rabbit and kit fox (which are both sagebrush or desert dwellers and are at the extreme edge of their range in the planning area) and bats species (which are often associated with caves). The habitat requirements of BLM Sensitive aquatic and amphibian species should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated Wild and Scenic Rivers lie within the planning area. However, nine stream segments managed by the Shoshone Field Office have been found eligible for future suitability study to see if they are suitable for addition to the Nationwide Wild and Scenic Rivers system (USDI - BLM, 1994). The eligible Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments and their mileage, tentative classifications as “Wild (W),” “Scenic (S),” or “Recreational (R),” and outstandingly remarkable values are as follows:

Big Wood River (2.1 miles; “R”; scenic and geologic)
Box Canyon (1.2 miles; “R”; fish and wildlife, natural features, recreational opportunities)
Dry Creek (4.6 miles; “W”; scenic, ecological, recreational qualities)
King Hill Creek (10 miles; “W”; fish and wildlife, scenic, ecological qualities)
Snake River - Miler Section (8.5 miles; “S”; scenic, recreational, historical)
Snake River - Murtaugh Section (13 miles; “S”; scenic, recreational)
Snake River - Hagerman Section (7.2 miles; “R”; recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historical)
Snake River - King Hill Section (12.8 miles; “R”; recreation, fish, wildlife, geologic)
Vineyard Lake (0.5 miles; “S”; scenic and ecological).

Until the suitability study is completed, all of these eligible WSR are being managed to (a) protect the streams’ free-flowing character, (b) maintain the level of development that resulted in the segments’ tentative classifications as “wild,” “scenic,” or “recreational”; and (c) protect the outstandingly remarkable values which qualified the stream segments as eligible for further study. [**Note:** Two of these eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (Dry Creek and King Hill Creek) are proposed for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in these plan amendments. The Box Canyon and Vineyard Lake eligible river segments lie within existing ACECs of the same name.]

Alternatives

Development of Alternatives for Land Use Plan Amendments

Three alternative land use plan amendments (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) are described and analyzed in this EA. Each of these “action” alternatives proposes (a) changes to existing management for land tenure adjustment and (b) new Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations. These actions would amend the Magic MFP, Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP, Sun Valley MFP, and Monument RMP (land use plans directing management of public lands administered by the Shoshone Field Office - see Map 1). Proposed designation of the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA and Bennett Hills ACEC would also amend the Jarbidge RMP, which directs management of public lands administered by the Four Rivers Field Office, Lower Snake River District, BLM. The option of “no action” - continuing existing management (Alternative 1) - is also described and analyzed.

Alternatives Considered, but not Analyzed in Detail

Land Tenure:

Identification of Specific Adjustment Parcels Rather than a “Zones” Management Approach: Prior to recent changes in the BLM - Idaho’s management direction for future land tenure adjustment planning efforts, specific parcels would have to be identified for potential disposal at the time a land use plan was written. Any lands not identified for potential disposal would require a plan amendment to be considered. However, when the decision was made to complete these plan amendments (in early 1999), the Bureau had begun to allow a “zone” concept for identifying management (retention) and adjustment areas. A zone concept for identifying these areas provides flexibility to the BLM and a long-term capability to meet public needs. In contrast, the specific adjustment parcels currently identified in the land use plans (see Appendix 6, pp. 177-187) would not satisfy the needs of the Shoshone Field Office’s constituents over the long term, and disposal of some of the identified parcels would create even more management inefficiencies than at present. In addition, a “specific parcel” approach cannot possibly foresee all the land tenure adjustment proposals that might be considered in the future; this approach would very likely result in the need for future time-consuming and costly plan amendments in order to consider land tenure adjustment proposals outside the identified parcels. A more general approach like the zone concept presented in these amendments provides consistent criteria for evaluating land tenure adjustment proposals, and should reduce or eliminate the need for future plan amendments related to land tenure adjustment.

No Disposal of Public Lands: The BLM’s current planning guidance requires the BLM to identify potential disposal areas during the land use planning process. Disposal of some public lands in the planning area (through sale, exchange, or R&PP patent) would benefit the American public. A “no disposal” alternative would preclude the BLM from considering land tenure adjustment proposals that would improve public lands resources and management efficiency or otherwise benefit the public.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs):

ACECs Nominated, but Not Proposed for Designation: Three ACECs were nominated, but not included in the land use plan amendments alternatives, because they did not meet the required relevance and importance criteria for designation as an ACEC. A detailed evaluation of these nominated ACECs is presented in Appendix 3.

Nominated ACEC	Acreage	Nominated Value(s)*	Reason(s) Not Considered Further
Big Wood/Warm Springs	236 acres	Scenic	The nominated area meets the required criteria for relevance, but does not meet the importance criteria.
Fir Grove	45 acres	Isolated stand of Douglas-fir	The nominated area does not meet the required criteria for relevance and importance.
King’s Crown	10 acres	Unique and rare plant species	The nominated area meets the required criteria for relevance, but does not meet the importance criteria.

*Values for ACEC nomination identified by the nominator.

Land Tenure Adjustment - Alternatives Formulation

Land tenure adjustments of public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office are presently limited to those parcels specifically identified in the Field Office’s four land use plans (see Map 2 and Appendix 6). Consideration of other lands requires a land use plan amendment. The Shoshone Field Office currently has more than 100 land exchange and sales proposals on file that do not meet the disposal decisions in the land use plans and can only be considered for disposal after they are identified in a plan amendment. The three alternative plan amendments described in this Environmental Assessment establish new direction for land tenure adjustment in the Field Office area; this new direction makes public lands available for disposal in response to the public’s changing priorities, improves the BLM’s ability to manage the existing land base and present resource values, and helps meet other objectives of the existing land use plans.

The action alternatives identify land tenure adjustment availability and priorities for large land areas called “zones” (areas that contain common issues or planned actions) instead of identifying specific parcels by legal description. The action alternatives also establish new land tenure adjustment review criteria. The result is a flexible, dynamic mechanism whereby the BLM and a proponent can evaluate the merits of a proposal by considering factors that include (a) the zone’s emphasis on retention or land tenure adjustment (see zone descriptions on pages 26-31 below) and (b) specific criteria for land ownership adjustment (described in Appendix 1, pages 123-124). Once the Shoshone Field Office determines that a land tenure adjustment proposal is consistent with requirements of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), the project area’s zone definition, and the amendments’ criteria for land ownership adjustment, the BLM will consider the likelihood that the proposal will have public support. If the proposal appears to have public support, the BLM will assess current and anticipated workloads, priorities, staff, and funding, and set a priority for the proposal to be evaluated through appropriate NEPA documentation. Each individual action would be required to comply with direction in FLPMA, be within the amendments’ guidelines for land tenure adjustment, meet the project area’s zone definition and the

Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (*Appendix I*), and stand on its own merit through public input and review. All disposals, whether by sale, exchange, or other authority, are subject to a decision by the authorized officer which would be based on detailed NEPA analysis and documentation as prescribed by law or regulation.

The following example illustrates how a proposal would be considered according to the amendments' land tenure adjustment framework:

Step 1: Land Tenure Adjustment Proposal Submitted

Does the proposal meet the intent of FLPMA? Is there a Federal interest (i.e., public benefit) to implementing the proposal? If the proposal is a land exchange, are the monetary values of the offered and selected lands relatively similar?

YES - Continue to step 2.

NO - No further consideration of the action as presently proposed.

Step 2: Proposal Screened by Zone Definition

Does the proposal fit within the guidelines of the affected area's zone definition for the selected amendment?

YES - Continue to step 3.

NO - No further consideration of the action as presently proposed.

Step 3: Proposal Screened by Land Ownership Adjustment Criteria

Is the proposed action a high priority based on the land ownership adjustment criteria?

YES - Continue to step 4.

NO - No further consideration of the action as presently proposed.

Step 4: Likelihood of Proposal Receiving Public Support

Is it likely the proposal will receive public support during the NEPA process?

YES - Continue to step 5.

NO - No further consideration of the action as presently proposed.

Step 5: Scheduling the Proposal for Appropriate Public Involvement and NEPA

Given established and future priorities, current and anticipated public and private funding and staffing, and the extent to which the proposal will benefit the American public, what should be the priority for completing the NEPA work on this proposal?

Management Common to all Three Action Alternatives

Several land tenure management actions would be implemented under all three action alternatives: lands status and management zones; criteria for land ownership adjustment; procedures for considering existing and new applications for public lands under the Desert Land Entry Act and Carey Act; criteria for transferring privately-held water right places of water use (POUs); and increased opportunity to improve public lands values and manageability by acquiring other lands through exchange, sale, or other means.

Lands Status and Management Zones

Initially, four lands status and management zones were developed and presented to the public (Zones 1-4). Based on public comments received during scoping, a fifth zone (Zone 5) was added. These zones are shown on Map 3 and defined below. The zone boundaries are the same for Alternatives 2 and 3. However, no Zone 5 lands are defined under Alternative 4; those lands shown as Zone 5 under Alternatives 2 and 3 would be managed as Zone 3 under Alternative 4. [**Note:** No lands status and management zones are defined under the existing management situation. If Alternative 1 is selected, only those land tenure adjustment proposals that meet current disposal criteria and are identified for disposal in the existing land use plans would be considered (see Map 2 and Appendix 6.)]

The approximate acreage of each zone is shown in Table 2 below. All acres and percentages cited in the following zone definitions are based upon the information in this table.

Table 2: Land Status Within Each Lands Management Zone

Note: Acres and percentages are approximate.

Zone	Private (acres)	State (acres)	BLM (acres)	Total	
				acres	%
1	7,000	7,000	180,000	194,000	7
2	92,000	44,000	956,000	1,092,000	39
3	359,000	48,000	127,000	534,000	19
4	573,000	25,000	56,000	654,000	24
5*	156,000	20,000	121,000	297,000	11
Total	1,187,000	144,000	1,440,000	2,771,000	100

*Under Alternative 4, these Zone 5 acres would be included in Zone 3.

Retention Areas (Zone 1 and Zone 2):

Retention areas are those regions of public lands that would be retained in public ownership. Zone 1 and Zone 2 lands would be considered retention areas under all three action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4).

Zone 1 lands are public lands with special designations because of significant resource values; all Zone 1 lands shall be retained in public ownership. Examples of Zone 1 lands include Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), National Monuments, National Trails, eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SR), Natural Conservation Areas (NCAs), and ACECs. Zone 1 lands also include public lands acquired through means, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, that require such lands to remain in Federal ownership. In the future, as lands receive a special designation, they will automatically be added to this zone. At present, Zone 1 contains about 180,000 acres of public lands, or 12.5% of public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office. The zone has few private or State inholdings (14,000 acres or 7% of lands in the zone). The BLM's acquisition priority for Zone 1 under all action alternatives is to seek to acquire all private and State land in-holdings.

Zone 2 lands are public lands that have a fairly well-consolidated ownership pattern and contain potentially high values for resources and land uses such as minerals, recreation, range, riparian, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. Zone 2 is the largest management zone proposed, and includes 956,000 acres of public lands, or 66% of the public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office. Zone 2 has a well consolidated ownership pattern, with only 12% of the zone (136,000 acres) in private or State ownership. The BLM's priorities for Zone 2 lands are to:

- first, retain the existing large blocks of high value public lands within the zone;
- second, consolidate public lands ownership within high priority watersheds by seeking to acquire private and State inholdings in those watersheds; and
- third, acquire additional high resource value lands within lower priority watersheds, as long as those acquired lands also improve efficiencies in public lands management.

Public lands within ½ -mile of either side of the Zone 2 boundary will be considered potentially suitable for disposal primarily by exchange (and secondarily by sale or R&PP patent), *unless* that ½ mile extends into a Zone 1 (retention) area. Each individual disposal action would be required to comply with the guidelines in FLPMA, meet the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see Appendix 1), stand on its own merit through public input and review, and be in compliance with NEPA. Public access will be considered in all land tenure actions.

Adjustment Areas (Zone 3, Zone 4, and Zone 5):

Public lands within the three zones labeled as “adjustment areas” are generally smaller parcels that are (a) fragmented because they are interspersed with private and/or State lands or (b) isolated from the larger blocks of public lands within the planning area. These geographic and ownership factors make management of the public lands in Zones 3, 4, and 5 difficult. Most of these lands are therefore identified for disposal through exchange, in order to consolidate land ownership within the three zones. The net result is expected to be larger blocks of public, private, and State lands than at present, with increased public and administrative access to public lands. Although Zones 3, 4, and 5 are considered “adjustment areas” (because most land ownership adjustment in the planning area would occur there), public lands with high resource values would generally be retained in Federal ownership.

Zone 3 lands are small to medium-sized blocks of public lands which are interspersed with State and private lands. Zone 3 lands in the northwest portion of the planning area are also isolated from other public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office. (*Note:* Under Alternative 4, the lands labeled as “Zone 5” on Map 3 would also be managed according to the Zone 3 definition, since Zone 5 would not exist under Alternative 4.) Zone 3 is a relatively small component of the Field Office area, containing only 127,000 acres or 9% of public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office (248,000 acres or 17% of the Field Office area under Alternative 4). However, the zone has extensive acres in private ownership (359,000 acres or 67% *of the zone* under Alternatives 2 and 3, and 515,000 acres or 62% *of the zone* under Alternative 4). This zone also has the largest amount of lands in State ownership (48,000 acres or 9% *of the zone* under Alternatives 2 and 3, and 68,000 acres or 8% *of the zone* under Alternative 4).

The emphasis in Zone 3 is to consolidate ownership, which would maximize public values, provide public access, and improve efficiencies in public lands management. The BLM’s priorities for lands management in Zone 3 would be to:

- Maintain the total amount of public land in Zone 3, including lands adjacent to the Sawtooth National Forest and Craters of the Moon National Monument (since these adjoining lands provide public access and improve Federal interagency efficiencies); and
- Acquire, primarily through exchange, additional high resource value lands that improve the manageability of the public lands. (*Note:* These acquisitions would result in disposal of lower resource value and difficult-to-manage tracts of Zone 3 public lands).

Zone 3 lands are potentially suitable for disposal primarily by exchange; however, disposal of lands through sales and R&PP patents would also be allowed in this zone. Specific parcels within the zone may contain potentially high values for resources and land uses such as minerals, recreation, range, riparian, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. These high-value parcels may not be suitable for disposal individually, except through exchange for equal resource value lands that are adjacent to existing public lands or that improve efficiencies in public land management. Each individual land tenure adjustment action would be required to comply with the guidelines in FLPMA, meet the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see Appendix 1), stand on its own merit through public input and review, and be in compliance with NEPA. Due to the present land ownership pattern, acquisition of public access would be a high priority in this zone.

Zone 4 lands are small to medium-sized blocks of public lands that are isolated from one another and from other public lands tracts in the Field Office area. Zone 4 public lands comprise only 56,000 acres, or 4% of the public lands administered by the Shoshone Field Office and 9% of all lands in Zone 4. The Isolated Wildlife Tract Program is managed on Zone 4 lands (and some Zone 2 lands) along the Snake River. Public lands in Zone 4 are potentially suitable for disposal primarily by exchange; if land exchanges are not feasible, then land tenure adjustment via sale or R&PP patent would be considered. The land tenure adjustment emphasis in Zone 4 should result in a net decrease in public lands acreage within the zone. However, there may be specific parcels within Zone 4 that contain potentially high values for resources and land uses such as minerals, recreation, range, riparian, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. These parcels may not be suitable for disposal individually, except through exchange for equal resource value lands that are not fragmented or isolated from existing public lands.

Due to the present land ownership pattern in Zone 4, acquisition of public access would be a low priority in this zone. Each individual lands action would be required to comply with the guidelines in FLPMA, meet the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see Appendix 1), stand on its own merit through public input and review, and be in compliance with NEPA.

Zone 5 is generally described as an “Area of Influence of the Wood River Valley,” and includes those lands that are within the viewshed of the communities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley, Idaho. This zone was created based on public comments and concerns communicated during the scoping period. Zone 5 would only exist under Alternatives 2 and 3, for under Alternative 4 these lands would be included in Zone 3 (see Map 3).

The land ownership characteristics of Zone 5 are very similar to Zone 3: public lands are small to medium-sized tracts interspersed with private and State lands. Zone 5 is a small land area, with only 121,000 acres of public lands (8% of lands administered by the Shoshone Field Office and 41% of lands within Zone 5). More acres within the zone are in private ownership than public ownership (156,000 acres of private lands, or 54% of the zone). State lands account for 20,000 acres or 7% of the zone.

The *general* land management strategy for Zone 5 is very similar to that of Zone 3. However, the concerns of the local Wood River Valley communities are addressed through some unique considerations within Zone 5.

Zone 5's General Land Tenure Management Strategy:

The emphasis in Zone 5 is to consolidate ownership, which would maximize public values, provide public access, and improve efficiencies in public lands management. The BLM's priorities for lands management in Zone 5 would be to:

- Maintain the total amount of public land in Zone 5, including lands adjacent to the Sawtooth National Forest (since these adjoining lands provide public access and improve Federal interagency efficiencies); and

- Acquire, primarily through exchange, additional high resource value lands that improve the manageability of the public lands. (**Note:** These acquisitions would result in disposal of lower resource value and difficult-to-manage tracts of Zone 5 public lands).

Zone 5 lands are potentially suitable for disposal primarily by exchange; however, disposal of lands through sales and R&PP patents would also be allowed in this zone. Specific parcels within the zone may contain potentially high values for resources and land uses such as minerals, recreation, range, riparian, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. These high-value parcels may not be suitable for disposal individually, except through exchange for equal resource value lands that are adjacent to existing public lands or that improve efficiencies in public land management. Each individual land tenure adjustment action would be required to comply with the guidelines in FLPMA, meet the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see Appendix 1), stand on its own merit through public input and review, and be in compliance with NEPA. Due to the present land ownership pattern, acquisition of public access would be a high priority in this zone.

Zone 5's Unique Considerations to Address Local Concerns:

Several local concerns are addressed through the unique characteristics of proposed land tenure management for Zone 5. These concerns include (a) the local governments' interest in acquiring public lands to benefit the local community; (b) interagency (BLM and IDFG) and local residents' concerns about wildlife habitat fragmentation; (c) wildfire risks; (d) retention of "open space" (undeveloped landscapes) and scenic values; (e) motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities and access; and (f) floodplain protection.

In each proposed lands transaction, the following factors need to be considered *in addition* to the standard Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see Appendix 1).

- the local (city or county) government's interest in acquiring public lands to support infrastructure and extend community services;
- the extent to which the transaction would provide for high quality continuous habitat by retaining existing wildlife habitat and reducing the extent of fragmented wildlife habitat;
- the extent to which the transaction would reduce hazardous fuels and the risk of wildfire;
- the ability of the lands action to retain "open space" (undeveloped landscapes) and protect scenic corridors,
- the extent to which the lands action would facilitate ongoing or future motorized and non-motorized trails and other public access; and
- the extent to which the lands action would protect floodplains from development.

Furthermore, the lands proposal evaluation must consider the public values acquired and local factors addressed by acquiring State or private lands, versus the public values relinquished and local factors addressed when ownership transfers from the BLM.

The following land tenure adjustment criteria also specifically apply to Zone 5:

- Exchanges would be considered to the extent that they result in no net loss of public lands within Zone 5. The BLM's goal for this zone is to maintain the public land acreage by exchanging public land in other zones for private land in Zone 5.

- The BLM would prefer disposal through R&PP patent to local or State government entities (since these are expected to provide management of the lands over the long term versus a nonprofit organization) when the BLM’s priorities, the local or State government’s priorities, and the public’s needs are met by the patent process.
- Disposal through land sales would only be for small (generally less than 10 acres), isolated parcels left from mining patents or a resurvey by the USDI Cadastral Survey. Many of these parcels are less than an acre and are difficult to identify without researching the Master Title Plats; because of their small size, they often do not show up on land status maps. The priority would be to pool these numerous small parcels for disposal and exchange them for high resource value parcels within Zone 5.

Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment

In addition to complying with guidelines for land tenure adjustment that are stated in FLPMA, a lands proposal must fit within the relevant zone’s management strategy (see “Lands Status and Management Zones” descriptions above) and meet the criteria for land ownership adjustment listed in Appendix 1 (see pages 123-124). The proposed action would be compared with the criteria to see if the proposal fits within the highest priorities for retention, acquisition, or disposal.

Other Issues Common to All Zones and Action Alternatives

Desert Land Entry and Carey Act

Applications: The eighteen Desert Land Entry and three Carey Act applications currently on file with the BLM are in Zone 2. Under all alternatives to existing management, Desert Land Entry (DLE) Act and Carey Act applications currently on file will be processed and a determination made as to whether they meet the suitability requirements under those laws. Cases meeting all the requirements will be transferred out of public ownership. New applications will not be accepted under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

Current Desert Land Entry (DLE) Applications:

- IDI 29776, 29777 and 29782 between Wendell and Gooding.
- IDI 27342, 27343, 27344, 27345, 27406, 27443, 27444, 27472, 27855, 27857, 27858, 27859, 28096, 28144 and 28145 in Hidden Valley between Dietrich and Kimama and below State Highway 24.

Current Carey Act Applications:

- IDI 9897, 9483 and 9487. (These overlap with the same DLE applicants between Wendell and Gooding.)

Water Rights Policy on Land Use

Authorizations: Adherence to Idaho water rights policy will be a condition of use on all existing, new, or renewed farming permits, leases, or agreements. When an existing permit is renewed, current Idaho BLM’s State-wide policy is that any privately-held water right place of water use (POU) on public land shall either be removed from public land, or be transferred to the United States through the Bureau of Land Management. It is also BLM’s policy that a privately-owned water right with a point of diversion (POD) on privately-owned property, but one or more places of water use on public land, shall be split and transferred to the United States, in proportion to the amount of water used on public land to the total water used on all land, both private and public; this transfer would be made for the duration of time the permitted use of public lands is authorized.

Acquisitions: Acquisitions, including easements, can be completed through exchange, Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) purchases, donations, or receipts from Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act sales or exchanges.

Access: When developing or evaluating land tenure adjustment proposals, the BLM would seek to acquire legal public or administrative access and prevent relinquishment of such access. However, the emphasis on initiating lands actions in order to acquire access (versus completing other types of lands transactions) would vary by alternative and zone.

Resolution of Split Mineral Estate: The BLM would seek to reduce or eliminate the split mineral estate whenever the opportunity arises. The priority would be to identify groups of landowners interested in acquiring their sub-surface mineral values, and to pool these values in order to acquire high resource value parcels through sale or exchange. Future lands transactions would follow current policy on transfer of sub-surface mineral values (current policy is to not split estates when completing a land tenure transaction).

ACECs - Alternative Formulation

The BLM evaluated 10 areas that were nominated for ACEC designation (see Map 4). The purpose of an ACEC designation is to focus management attention on special resources located at these sites. Attention to these particular areas was brought about through scoping and comments on the Supplemental Draft Bennett Hills RMP, through individual and/or group nominations, and from BLM staff recommendations. The BLM used a screening process – the ACEC Criteria Review Checklist (see *Appendix 3*) – as an initial evaluation to determine if the nominated area met basic relevance and importance criteria for designation. The BLM considered the appropriate amount of land needed to protect the resource values reflected in each nomination; the nominated ACECs cannot have their boundaries changed without substantially affecting their reason for nomination.

The ACECs evaluation was based on guidance provided by 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and BLM Manual Section 1613, which state that potential ACECs must meet specified criteria for relevance and importance. Relevance is based on the presence of a significant

- historic, cultural, or scenic value;
- fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or
- natural hazard.

Upon meeting the relevance criteria, a nominated site must then have substantial significance and values that meet one or more of the “importance” criteria:

- Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.

- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
- Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Based on these requirements, three of the ten nominated ACECs were dropped from further consideration because they did not meet the relevance and importance criteria (see “Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail” section on page 24).

ACEC Nominations That Did Not Meet Relevance and Importance Criteria:

The ACEC nomination for Fir Grove ACEC did not meet the required criteria for relevance and importance. The ACEC criteria review checklist for this nominated ACEC is available for review in Appendix 3 (see pp. 154-155). There will be no further consideration of this nominated ACEC within this document.

Fir Grove: The nominated site contains the only known stand of an isolated Douglas-fir community south of Camas Creek in the Bennett Hills. Fire appears to be the only threat to this stand, and this threat is mitigated by the fact that the stand lies on a north-facing slope and the site is identified for full fire suppression. In addition, Fir Grove is not part of the Upper Snake River District commercial timber base and would therefore not be subject to timber management activities. Current management is sufficient to protect the values at this site.

ACEC Nominations That Meet Relevance, but Not Importance, Criteria:

The Big Wood/Warm Springs and King’s Crown ACEC nominations met the relevance criteria, but failed to meet the importance criteria for ACEC designation. For this reason, they are not considered further within this document. The ACEC criteria review checklists for these nominated ACECs are available for review in Appendix 3 (see pp. 136-138 and 156-157).

Big Wood/Warm Springs: This approximately 236-acre area meets relevance criteria due to its scenic values. However, the area does not possess more than locally significant qualities or have special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. No additional special management needs are identified for this area that can be implemented through these amendments.

King’s Crown: This approximately 10-acre area was nominated based on the presence of two undisturbed plant communities. The natural system is not in jeopardy, due to its inaccessibility by humans and livestock. Wildfire is the only known risk, and this risk is mitigated by the natural features of the mesa (which is surrounded by cliffs). If a wildfire occurred, the area is identified for full fire suppression.

ACEC Nominations That Meet Relevance and Importance Criteria:

The Bennett Hills, Camas Creek, Coyote Hills and Dry Creek ACEC nominations met the relevance and importance criteria and are proposed for ACEC designation under Alternative 2. However, it is uncertain that ACEC designation is needed to provide special management for the identified resources or values, because current management, regulation, and law provide sufficient protection for the values identified; therefore, ACEC designation may not be necessary. The ACEC criteria review checklists for these ACECs are available for review in Appendix 3 (see pp. 130-135 and 140-152).

Bennett Hills: This approximately 381,471-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for cultural values.

Camas Creek: This approximately 420-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for significant scenic values and a natural (riparian) system.

Coyote Hills: This approximately 49,062-acre area (which includes the original Coyote Hills and Little City of Rocks ACEC nominations) meets relevance and importance criteria for significant cultural values.

Dry Creek: This approximately 869-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for significant scenic values and a natural (riparian) system.

The remaining three nominated ACECs, the King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze ACECs, met both the relevance and importance criteria. In addition, a change in management appears to be needed to provide sufficient protection for the identified resources or values. The ACEC criteria review checklists for these ACECs are available for review in Appendix 3 (see pp. 158-172).

King Hill Creek: This approximately 3,200-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for significant scenic values, fish resources, and a natural (riparian) system.

McKinney Butte: This approximately 3,764-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for significant scenic values, wildlife resources, and natural systems and processes.

Tee-Maze: This approximately 10,762-acre area meets relevance and importance criteria for significant scenic values, wildlife resources, and natural systems and processes.

Table 3 below summarizes the ACEC nominations received and whether they are proposed for designation in these amendments. Table 4 lists the special management identified for each proposed ACEC (see pages 46-54).

Table 3: Summary of ACEC Nominations and Proposed ACECs

(Note: Acres are approximate)

Nominated ACEC	Not Proposed	Proposed for Designation		
		Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Bennett Hills - 381,471 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> cultural		X		
Big Wood/Warm Springs - 236 acres	X ²			
Camas Creek - 420 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> scenic, natural system or process		X		
Coyote Hills - 49,062 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> cultural		X		
Dry Creek - 869 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> scenic, natural system or process		X		
Fir Grove - 45 acres	X ¹			
King's Crown - 10 acres	X ²			
King Hill Creek - 2,880 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> scenic, fish resource, natural system or process		X	X	X
McKinney Butte - 3,764 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> scenic, wildlife resource, natural system or process		X	X	X
Tee-Maze - 10,762 acres <i>ACEC values:</i> scenic, wildlife resource, natural system or process		X	X	X
Total Acres Proposed for Designation		385,235 acres³	17,406 acres	17,406 acres

¹ The Fir Grove nominated ACEC did not meet required relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation.

² The Big Wood/Warm Springs and King's Crown nominated ACECs met relevance criteria for ACEC designation, but did not meet importance criteria.

³ The total acres for Alternative 2 takes into account that five of the proposed ACECs (Camas Creek, Coyote Hills, Dry Creek, King Hill Creek, and Tee-Maze) would lie within the boundaries of the Bennett Hills ACEC.

Comparison of Alternatives

Table 4 displays relevant management from the existing land use plans (Alternative 1) and the three alternative amendments to the existing plans (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4). Alternative 3 is the BLM's preferred alternative. The table is presented in a comparative format, with the land tenure adjustment issue and related concerns discussed first, followed by the proposed designations of and management for new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

Table 4: Shoshone Land Use Plans Draft Amendments - Alternatives

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Land Tenure Adjustment</i>				
Summary	Land tenure adjustments would continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis as long as the public lands involved are specifically identified for disposal in one of the existing land use plans. Appendix 6 lists existing land tenure adjustment areas and remaining specific tracts identified for disposal (also see Map 2). These lands were identified for disposal as of July 25, 2000, and may therefore be sold or exchanged under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.	Land tenure actions under Alternatives 2 through 4 would amend the following land use plans: Magic MFP, Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP, Sun Valley MFP, and Monument RMP. Zone designations and other actions stated in the previous section titled “Management Common to All Three Action Alternatives” (see pp. 26-32) would be implemented. Each land tenure adjustment proposal would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and evaluated to see if it meets the intent of FLPMA, the guidelines for the relevant Lands Status and Management Zone(s) (Zones 1-5 under Alternatives 2 and 3; Zones 1-4 under Alternative 4), and the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment presented in Appendix 1. Land tenure adjustments would seek to facilitate a watershed approach to natural resource management, in order to improve efficiencies in public lands management. The BLM would also seek to acquire high resource value lands made available by willing land owners.	Disposal of public lands with high resource values would generally be discouraged or prohibited, unless the disposal would result in acquisition of even higher valued lands. Disposal of lower resource value public lands would be considered; however, disposals that emphasize resource values and/or management efficiency would be higher in priority than those that address community or private landowner needs.	Depending on the merits of each proposal, disposal of public lands would be a priority if the disposal provided opportunity to consolidate public lands, accommodate the need for community expansion, improve management in areas of high resource values, and/or resolve long-standing unauthorized uses.
<i>Acquisition Priorities</i>	Acquisition priorities would be as stated in the current land use plans.	The BLM’s acquisition priority would be to acquire land with high resource values.	The BLM’s acquisition priorities would be to reconnect habitats within priority watersheds and to acquire other lands with high resource values.	Unmanageable, isolated public lands would be a priority for disposal. Isolated parcels would generally be identified as those isolated by ownership or physical barriers such as canals or roadways.
Same as Alternative 2.				

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Land Sales and Exchanges	The BLM's first priority will always be to use land exchanges rather than land sales. Lands considered for disposal through sale must meet the intent of FLPMA, Section 203(a) (1) (i.e., be difficult and uneconomical to manage) or FLPMA, Section 203(a) (3) (i.e., meet public objectives such as community expansion and economic development).			
	Disposal of public lands through sale or exchange will only be considered on lands currently identified for potential disposal (see Appendix 6).	Disposal of public lands through sale or exchange would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, 4, and 5. Sales would only be allowed in Zone 5 if the tracts are small, isolated parcels left from mining patents or resurvey by the USDI cadastral survey. Sales would be a low priority, due to increased emphasis on land exchanges.	Same as Alternative 2, except public land sales would be in balance with, and, if possible, pooled with State and private land exchanges to facilitate a watershed approach and thereby improve efficiencies in public lands management.	Disposal of public lands through sale or exchange would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, and 4 (Zone 5 would not exist). This alternative would emphasize land sales when appropriate to meet the needs of the adjoining landowners and the BLM in a timely manner.
	Almost 49,973 acres of public lands were identified for disposal as of July 25, 2000 (see Appendix 6). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these lands can be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.	Approximately 45,739 acres of public lands identified for disposal as of July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal (see Appendix 6, tracts shown in standard type). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. [Note: The 4,233 acres shown in bold type in Appendix 6 do not meet the plan amendments' criteria for disposal and would therefore not be available for disposal.]		
State Land Exchanges	Disposal of public lands through exchange for State lands would only be considered on public lands currently identified for potential disposal (see Appendix 6).	Alternative 2 would emphasize land exchanges with the State of Idaho (rather than private landowners) and retention of lands with high resource values, in order to reconnect fragmented habitats and meet the needs of the State and the BLM.	State land exchanges would be in balance with, and, if possible, pooled with private land exchanges to facilitate a watershed approach and thereby improve efficiencies in public lands management.	State land exchanges would be a low priority due to an increased emphasis on private land exchanges.

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Private Land Exchanges	Disposal of public lands through exchange for private lands would only be considered on public lands currently identified for potential disposal (see Appendix 6).	Private land exchanges would be a low priority (even if those lands offer opportunity to reconnect fragmented habitat) because of an increased emphasis on State land exchanges.	Private land exchanges would be in balance with, and, if possible, pooled with State land exchanges to facilitate a watershed approach in order to improve efficiencies in public land management.	Alternative 4 would emphasize private land exchanges over State land exchanges, to meet the needs of the general public and the BLM.
Desert Land Entry Act/ Carey Act Applications and Lands Transfer	The tracts currently applied for under the Desert Land Entry (DLE) Act and Carey Act are not identified for disposal in the existing land use plans and therefore cannot be disposed of. Future DLE and Carey Act applications would only be processed for lands that are identified as disposal parcels (see Appendix 6) and also meet the criteria of the Acts.	Current Desert Land Entry Act and Carey Act applications would be processed, and lands meeting the criteria of the Acts would be disposed of. No new DLE or Carey Act applications would be accepted.		
Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Leases and Patents	Existing leases would continue to be allowed. Patent of these leased lands or other proposed lands would only be allowed if the public lands are identified for disposal in Appendix 6.	R&PP leases and patents would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, 4, and 5. Proposed patents in Zone 5 must meet the additional criterion for that zone. In Zone 5 the BLM would prefer disposal through R&PP patent to local or State government entities (since these are expected to provide management of the lands over the long term, versus a nonprofit organization) when the BLM's priorities, the local or State government's priorities, and the public's needs are met by the patent process.	R&PP leases and patents would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, and 4 (Zone 5 would not exist). However, opportunities to address community needs would be limited due to competing priorities.	
Aquifer Recharge Sites	The existing recharge site would continue to be allowed as per the signed Cooperative Agreement. All future recharge site authorizations would be made through right-of-way grants.	The existing recharge site authorized in Zone 1 would be retained in public ownership and continued to be authorized through the signed Cooperative Agreement. The site within Zone 2 that has been approved by the BLM through a signed Decision Record would be made available for acquisition through exchange with the State of Idaho. The BLM will also allow the State to exchange for recharge sites identified within Zones 2 or 4, if the sites are approved through the NEPA process; no future recharge site authorizations would be allowed. Ancillary support for existing and future recharge sites (e.g., monitoring wells, access roads, etc.) may be authorized on public lands by issuing a right-of-way, if the action is approved through the NEPA process.		

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Communication Sites	The existing communication sites are not identified for disposal and would continue to be managed using current policy and procedures. All future communication site authorizations would be made through right-of-way grants. The existing plans do not address disposal of communication sites to the State of Idaho.	The communication sites within the planning area that have been approved by the BLM through right-of-way grants would be made available for acquisition through exchange with the State of Idaho. The BLM would allow the State to exchange for entire communication site complexes and any other additional area needed for ancillary support for the sites identified in Zones 2-5 (Zones 2-4 in Alternative 4), if the sites are approved through the NEPA process. Ancillary support for existing and future communication sites (e.g., power lines, access roads, etc.) would not be authorized on public lands once the sites are transferred to the State. Any transfer of public lands would be subject to all valid existing rights, including existing rights-of-way.		
Isolated Wildlife Tract Program	Continue to manage the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program within the guidelines and direction in the existing land use plans. Continue the present cooperative agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).	Continue to manage the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program on existing lands, and look for opportunities to expand the program onto additional isolated public lands. IDFG would accept complete management responsibility for the program through a Memorandum of Agreement.	Continue to manage the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program on existing lands, and look for opportunities in partnership with IDFG to exchange the current properties for higher value properties that are adjacent to BLM, have equal or higher wildlife values, and help reconnect fragmented habitats within priority watersheds. As isolated lands are disposed of, the program would be reduced accordingly. Continue the present cooperative agreement with IDFG.	The Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would be discontinued by disposing of the isolated tracts through exchange or sale. The program would continue to be managed on existing lands until disposal has occurred. The present cooperative agreement with IDFG would continue until all tracts are disposed of.

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Management Direction for Future Land Use Permits and Resolution of Unauthorized Use	The BLM has historically granted temporary use permits to authorize various uses on lands that are pending transfer.	While waiting for a land tenure action to be completed, new land use permits, leases, or agreements would not be allowed on the public lands being considered for disposal. In areas not identified for disposal (e.g., Zone 1), consideration of new land use permits, leases, or agreements would be a low priority.		
(e.g., farming, equipment storage, material disposal, fences)	Current Shoshone Field Office policy does not allow new permits to cross BLM lands for the sole benefit of private farming practices (i.e., dry or wet pivot lines).	Permits to cross BLM lands for the sole benefit of private farming practices (i.e., dry or wet pivot lines) will not be approved. No form of waste water application will be approved.		
	Resolution of long-term and new unauthorized uses will continue to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as BLM priorities allow.	Resolution of long-term unauthorized uses through land tenure adjustments will be a lower priority than the priority to retain or acquire high value lands.	Resolution of long-term unauthorized uses through land tenure adjustment would be equal in priority to retaining or acquiring high resource value lands.	Resolution of long-term unauthorized uses through land tenure adjustment would be greater in priority than retaining or acquiring high resource value lands.
	Existing cases of unauthorized use may be resolved through disposal by sale or exchange, if the affected lands are currently identified for disposal (see Appendix 6).	Existing permits, leases, or agreements that currently authorize known trespass will be retired within 18 months of the date the permit, lease, or agreement expires, and all agreed-to rehabilitation will occur to the satisfaction of the authorized officer within 36 months of the date the permit, lease, or agreement expires.		Unauthorized uses occurring prior to December 31, 1989 (the date of the most recent aerial photos for the planning area), will be given opportunity for a land use lease or agreement to continue the use until a resolution can be reached. Recent unauthorized uses (since December 31, 1989) will be resolved on a case-by-case basis as priorities allow.

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Resolution of Unauthorized Use <i>(continued)</i>	Renewal of existing land use permits would continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with current policy.	Public lands with unauthorized uses that are temporarily authorized by existing land use permits, leases, or agreements will be evaluated for disposal. Those lands meeting the disposal criteria in Appendix 1 will become a low priority for land tenure adjustment.	Public lands with unauthorized uses that are temporarily authorized by existing land use permits, leases, or agreements will be evaluated for disposal in a “pooled lands” approach with the assistance of local county governments, in order to meet the needs of all land owners and the public. Isolated BLM parcels (isolated from other BLM properties or isolated due to structures like highways or major irrigation canals) may be sold.	Public lands with unauthorized uses that are temporarily authorized by existing land use permits, leases, or agreements will be evaluated for disposal. Those lands meeting the disposal criteria in Appendix 1 will become a high priority for land tenure adjustment. In contrast to Alternatives 2 and 3, those public lands not meeting the criteria will be offered to continue the unauthorized use under a long-term lease or agreement. Isolated BLM parcels (i.e., isolated from other BLM properties or isolated due to structures like highways or major irrigation canals) may be sold.
	New cases of unauthorized use, or situations the BLM becomes aware of after these amendments are approved, will be resolved by current laws, regulations, and priorities. In the future, no new land use permits, leases, or agreements will be authorized to validate unauthorized use.			
Water Rights	Current Idaho water rights laws and BLM water policies will be adhered to.			

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Private/Public Land Boundary Adjustments Within and Adjacent to Zone 2	Disposal of public lands bordering other land ownerships would not be allowed unless the parcels are currently identified for disposal (see Appendix 6).	Public lands within ½ -mile of either side of the Zone 2 boundary will be considered potentially suitable for disposal primarily by exchange (and secondarily by sale or R&PP patent), <i>unless</i> that ½-mile extends into a Zone 1 (retention) area.		
		The land exchange emphasis would be to exchange those State land inholdings within ½-mile of the Zone 2 boundary that would improve efficiencies in management for both the State of Idaho and the BLM. Private/public land boundary adjustments within ½-mile of the Zone 2 boundary would only be allowed if the BLM would acquire private lands with high resource values.	Private/public land boundary adjustments within ½-mile of the Zone 2 boundary would be a priority if the land tenure adjustment provided opportunity to consolidate public lands, accommodate the need for community expansion, improve management in areas of high resource values, and/or resolve long-standing unauthorized uses.	Private/public land boundary adjustments within ½-mile of the Zone 2 boundary would be a priority if the land tenure adjustment accommodated the needs of private landowners.
Split Estate Mineral Values (private surface owner/ BLM subsurface owner)	Although the existing land use plans are silent on the specific action of exchanging or selling BLM sub-surface minerals for private surface lands, current policy allows the sale or exchange of mineral rights.	The exchange or sale of BLM sub-surface minerals for private surface lands would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, 4, and 5. The BLM would seek to reduce or eliminate the split mineral estate whenever the opportunity arises. The priority would be to identify groups of landowners interested in acquiring their sub-surface mineral values, and to pool these values in order to acquire high resource value parcels through sale or exchange. Future lands transactions would follow current policy on transfer of sub-surface mineral values (current policy is to not split estates when completing a land tenure transaction).		
Priorities for Consolidating Land Ownership <i>First priority will always be to use land exchanges rather than land sales.</i>	Acquisitions and disposals will be as described in the existing land use plans. Parcels not identified for disposal in Appendix 6 would require an individual, timely, and costly plan amendment prior to consideration of the land tenure adjustment proposal, and thus are not a priority to complete.	Priority is to retain all high resource value lands and acquire additional high resource value lands, while considering opportunities to consolidate lands made available by a willing land owner. A priority is also to reconnect habitats within priority watersheds.	Priority is to retain and acquire additional high resource value lands made available by a willing land owner, while considering opportunities to consolidate lands. High resource value lands will be retained unless equal or higher resource value lands are available. A priority is also to reconnect habitats within priority watersheds.	Opportunities to consolidate lands to improve efficiencies in public land management would be a higher priority than the requirement to retain or acquire high resource value lands. Land tenure adjustments would not necessarily seek to address habitat fragmentation.

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Zone 5 Considerations	<p>The following definitions apply for the purposes of this table:</p> <p>“Open space” is defined as a primitive and peaceful area that provides solitude, and where the public lands user would tread lightly and leave no trace of having been there. The “open space” definition accommodates all approved permits, developments, land uses, and activities at the time a land tenure adjustment occurs.</p> <p>“Local governments” include Blaine County and the Cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley.</p>			
<i>Lands to Support Local Needs</i>	<p>Acquisitions and disposals within the Wood River Valley will be as described in the existing land use plans. Parcels not identified for disposal in Appendix 6 would require an individual, timely, and costly plan amendment prior to consideration of the land tenure adjustment proposal, and thus are not a priority to complete.</p>	<p>“Reasonably necessary” sized parcels of public land may be made available for disposal through the R&PP Act, preferably directly to local governments, to support local needs for community infrastructure and extended services.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 2. In addition, community needs would be accommodated to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<p>Zone 5 would not exist under Alternative 4. Public lands in the Wood River Valley area would be managed according to the definition of Zone 3. Public lands in that area can be made available for disposal through the R&PP Act to support local needs for infrastructure and extended services; however, opportunities to address community needs would be limited due to competing priorities.</p>

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Zone 5 Considerations <i>(continued)</i></p> <p><i>“Open Space” Concept</i></p>	<p>The existing land use plans do not provide any management direction to address the topic of “open space.”</p>	<p>In Zone 5 the following three actions would be emphasized to promote “open space”: 1) Generally, public lands will be retained as “open space.” 2) No additional permits, leases, or agreements will be authorized, and existing permits, leases, or agreements will not be expanded. Any expansion of existing rights-of-way must remain within existing corridors. New rights-of-way will only be allowed where there will be minimal visual impact to open space. 3) Access will remain as currently authorized; no additional access developments would be authorized.</p>	<p>In Zone 5 the following would be emphasized to promote open space: Pool numerous small, low public value parcels and acquire through exchanges high resource priority parcels to complement the BLM and local governments’ Master and/or Comprehensive Plans.</p>	<p>The priority for acquisition within Zone 3 is to acquire, primarily through exchange, additional high resource value lands that improve the manageability of the public lands. These transactions may or may not address the “open space” or government infrastructure concerns of local Wood River Valley residents.</p>
<p>Acquisition of Access</p>	<p>Knowing that limited resources are available to acquire access through individual actions (unless access is acquired as a component of another proposed transaction), future access needs and priorities will be coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, IDFG, and local governments to ensure resource values are evaluated along with public needs.</p> <p>Existing public access will be retained.</p>			
	<p>Legal administrative and/or public access may be acquired through purchase, easement, or other means.</p>	<p>When evaluating proposals for acquisition of access, the BLM will seek to address concerns about over-development, over-use, and habitat fragmentation. New points of access would seek to protect both the acquired access area and the resources accessed by that area (e.g., parking area next to a trailhead; pull-off next to a fishing hole).</p>		

[continued]

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Acquisition of Access <i>(continued)</i>		The BLM would seek to acquire legal public access through easements or other means. Retention and acquisition of public access will be limited to the minimum required to gain access to large blocks of Federal lands while maintaining protection of private property rights.	The BLM would seek to balance acquisition of legal public and administrative access.	The BLM would seek to acquire legal administrative access. Retention and acquisition of public access will be limited to the minimum required to gain access to large blocks of Federal lands while maintaining protection of private property rights.
Forest Resources	No public lands in the timber base are currently identified for disposal to the general public. The Sun Valley MFP identifies public lands with forest resources for transfer to the Forest Service only.	All public lands in the timber base would be retained in public ownership.	Small, isolated, and hard to manage public lands in the timber base would be considered for disposal if they meet these amendments' criteria for disposal (zone definition, Appendix 1 criteria).	Public lands in the timber base would be considered for disposal if they meet these amendments' criteria for disposal (zone definition, Appendix 1 criteria).

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Proposed Designations				
Summary	No additional ACECs are proposed for designation. Management of the ten nominated, but not proposed, ACEC lands (approximately 385,526 acres) would continue as specified under the existing land use plans.	The BLM would designate seven additional ACECs totaling approximately 385,235 acres: Bennett Hills, Camas Creek, Dry Creek, Coyote Hills, King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze. Management of the three nominated, but not proposed, ACEC areas (approximately 291 acres) would continue as specified under the existing land use plans.	The BLM would designate three additional ACECs totaling approximately 17,406 acres: King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze. Management of the seven nominated, but not proposed, ACEC areas (approximately 368,120 acres) would continue as specified under the existing land use plans.	
Notes: Within this table the terms “relevance” and “importance” refer to those ACEC values that met <u>both</u> relevance and importance criteria during the ACEC nomination review process (see Appendix 3). These are the values for which the ACEC is being proposed for designation and the values for which protective management is also proposed. Some areas proposed as an ACEC also meet qualifications for a Research Natural Area (RNA) designation - i.e., the ACEC contains natural resource values of scientific interest and would be managed primarily for research and educational purposes.				
Management Common to All Proposed ACECs	Not applicable.	Any future land uses or activities approved within an ACEC must not impair the values, resources, systems, and/or processes for which the ACEC was designated. Off-road vehicle use (cross-country use) would be allowed within areas with a “closed” or “limited” off-highway vehicle use designation under these circumstances: (a) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (b) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved; (c) vehicles in official use (43 CFR 8340.0-7); (d) vehicles being used by members or representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to access traditional use areas of importance to the Tribes; and (e) vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to exercise their tribally reserved treaty rights.		

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Bennett Hills ACEC</p> <p>Relevance: Cultural resources including prehistoric sites, pictographs, petroglyphs, and possibly tools and artifacts.</p> <p>Importance: The identified cultural values are fragile, irreplaceable resources that have already been damaged by illegal excavation. Unusual concentrations of sites indicates special significance to aboriginal populations.</p>	<p>The nominated Bennett Hills ACEC would not be proposed for designation. Continue to implement relevant existing management from the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (1976), including the following summary of actions: manage mule deer, elk, and antelope habitat to provide food and cover for specified populations; improve 283,000 acres of sage grouse brood rearing habitat; manage for a maximum diversity of vegetative species in order to meet the habitat requirements for a variety of wildlife species; provide for the protection and conservation of threatened or endangered plants; and implement management practices on all grazing lands in the Bennett Hills area to reach and maintain good range condition.</p>	<p>Designate approximately 381,471 acres as the Bennett Hills ACEC (see Map 5), including approximately 1,220 acres within the Four Rivers Field Office area (along King Hill Creek). Implement the following actions to protect the identified cultural values: (a) Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan which emphasizes National Register District nomination; curation of collections; limitations on any activity that may adversely impact cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; erosion control; and site stabilization. (b) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to State Highway 75, State Highway 46, and the Bliss-Hill City Road. (c) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails. (d) Permitting for professional research will follow the process outlined in BLM Manual 1851 for Cultural Resource Use Permits.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Camas Creek ACEC/RNA</i></p> <p>Relevance: Scenic canyon and pristine low elevation riparian system which includes two rare plant species.</p> <p>Importance: Canyon is readily visible from a major highway. Riparian system is a valuable reference area for future scientific study.</p>	<p>The nominated Camas Creek ACEC would not be proposed for designation. Management of the Camas Creek area would continue as described in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (see Bennett Hills ACEC “Alternative 1” description on page 47 above) (Note: The MFP contains no specific management decisions for Camas Creek.)</p>	<p>Designate approximately 420 acres as the Camas Creek ACEC/RNA (see Map 7). Implement the following actions to protect and highlight management of the identified scenic and riparian values: (a) Work with adjacent private landowners on coordinated riparian management. (b) Acquire private sections of the stream under a willing-seller basis or through exchange. Explore opportunities for conservation easements. (c) Close the ACEC to livestock grazing, except for sheep trailing (no overnight stays) within the wing fences at the Macon Sheep Bridge. Wing fences will be built at the Macon Sheep Bridge to allow for sheep trailing through the Camas Creek area. Temporary management to prevent sheep grazing impacts will be required until the fences are built. (d) Implement actions to re-establish the potential natural community along the entire reach. (e) Seek to eliminate non-native invasive plant species. (f) Exclude the ACEC from new land use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Camas Creek</i> <i>ACEC/RNA</i> (continued)</p>		<p>(g) Stipulate the ACEC no-surface-occupancy for leasable mineral exploration and development, including seismic exploration. Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits. (h) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails. (i) Develop a visitor information station/kiosk (and possibly a small picnic area) in the parking area overlooking the canyon (at the end of the County Line Road) to provide public awareness of the nature and fragility of the area and constrain casual use to that immediate area (rather than allowing such use to occur along the entire rim). (j) Designate and manage the ACEC/RNA as VRM Class II.</p>		

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Coyote Hills ACEC</i></p> <p>Relevance: More than 100 sites containing pictographs, petroglyphs, and possibly tools and artifacts.</p> <p>Importance: The identified cultural values are fragile, irreplaceable resources that have already been damaged by illegal excavation. Sites occur in unusual concentration, indicating special significance to aboriginal populations.</p>	<p>The nominated Coyote Hills ACEC would not be proposed for designation. General management of the Coyote Hills area would continue as described in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (the MFP does not contain any specific decisions related to the Coyote Hills area) (see Bennett Hills ACEC "Alternative 1" description on page 47 above).</p>	<p>Designate approximately 49,062 acres as the Coyote Hills ACEC (see Map 9). Implement the following actions to protect the cultural resources and associated setting from destruction and loss and allow for professional research: (a) Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan which emphasizes National Register District nomination; curation of collections; limitations on any activity that may adversely impact cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; erosion control; and site stabilization. (b) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to the Bliss-Hill City Road and State Highway 46. (c) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails. (d) Permitting for professional research will follow the process outlined in BLM Manual 1851 for Cultural Resource Use Permits.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Dry Creek ACEC/RNA</p> <p>Relevance: Scenic, near-pristine riparian system in a desert environment.</p> <p>Importance: Visual and resource values are seldom seen in southern Idaho. Valuable as a rare, low elevation riparian reference area.</p>	<p>The nominated Dry Creek ACEC would not be proposed for designation. General management of the Dry Creek area would continue as described in Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (see Bennett Hills ACEC “Alternative 1” description on page 47 above). (Note: The MFP does not have specific management for the Dry Creek area.)</p> <p>In addition, the nominated area (which lies within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA and is “eligible” for further Wild and Scenic River study) would continue to be managed to prevent non-impairment of wilderness values and to maintain those values which qualified the creek as eligible for further study as a Wild and Scenic River.</p>	<p>Designate approximately 869 acres, including 3.8 miles of stream reaches, as the Dry Creek ACEC/RNA (see Map 9).</p> <p>Implement the following actions to highlight management of the ACEC’s scenic and riparian values: (a) Close the area to livestock grazing. (b) Prevent noxious weed invasion by treating public lands adjacent to the ACEC and promptly treating existing and new weed infestations within the ACEC. (c) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits. (d) Designate the ACEC/RNA as “closed” to motorized vehicle use. (e) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits). (f) Designate and manage the ACEC/RNA as VRM Class I. (g) Only allow those vegetation manipulation actions or surface disturbing activities that will protect or enhance the near-pristine low elevation riparian plant community and/or the adjacent late seral upland plant communities.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA</p> <p>Relevance: Extremely deep, vertical-walled canyon with scenic vegetation and geology. Genetically pure Interior redband trout, a BLM sensitive species. Near-pristine low elevation riparian area.</p> <p>Importance: Isolated, with spectacular scenery. Important source of Interior redband trout for re-introduction elsewhere. Important as a riparian reference area.</p>	<p>The nominated King Hill Creek ACEC would not be proposed for designation. General management of the King Hill Creek area would continue as described in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (no specific management decisions for the King Hill Creek area are contained in the MFP) (see Bennett Hills ACEC “Alternative 1” description on page 47 above).</p> <p>In addition, portions of the nominated area which lie within the King Hill Creek WSA would continue to be managed to prevent non-impairment of wilderness values. Portions of the nominated area which have been found “eligible” for future Wild and Scenic River study would be managed to maintain those values which qualified the creek as eligible.</p>		<p>Designate 10 miles (approximately 2,880 acres) of King Hill Creek as an ACEC/RNA, including approximately 1,220 acres managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM (see Map 12). Implement the following actions to highlight management of the scenic, fisheries, and riparian values within the ACEC: (a) Close the area to livestock grazing. (b) Close all aquatic habitat in the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA to introduction of genetic strains of trout which are not native to the King Hill Creek watershed. Petition the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to prohibit the introduction of genetic strains of trout into King Hill Creek which are not native to the King Hill Creek watershed. (c) Prevent noxious weed invasion by treating public lands adjacent to the ACEC and promptly treating existing and new weed infestations within the ACEC. (d) Exclude the ACEC from new land use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits). (e) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits. (f) Designate the ACEC/RNA as “closed” to motorized vehicle use. (g) Designate the ACEC as VRM Class I. (h) Authorize only those actions which maintain or improve desirable habitat conditions for redband trout.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA</p> <p>Relevance: Outstanding cave scenery and examples of volcanism and lava tube formation. Significant hibernating populations of two bat species, both BLM sensitive species. Diverse cave-adapted insect community. Known paleontological resources, including remains of extinct or extirpated species.</p> <p>Importance: Unique variety, abundance, and undisturbed character of cave features. Hibernation habitat for significant numbers of a BLM sensitive species (Townsend’s big-eared bat). Unusual plant and invertebrate communities. High potential of additional fossil resources.</p>	<p>The nominated McKinney Butte ACEC would not be proposed for designation. General management of the McKinney Butte area would continue as described in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (the MFP contains some general statements encouraging protection of known cave resources). (Also see Bennett Hills ACEC “Alternative 1” description on page .) Caves in the McKinney Butte area would continue to be managed according to the current Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1999). Caves which the BLM has determined are significant would continue to be protected under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.</p>		<p>Designate 3,764 acres as the McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA to protect significant subsurface resources and focus use of the area on research and education. Implement the following actions to highlight management of the identified scenic, wildlife, and cave values: (a) Prepare an activity plan for the McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA. The plan will incorporate limitations on any activity that may adversely impact physical, biological, or cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; and Limits of Acceptable Change concepts to protect cave resource values. The Limits of Acceptable Change will be cave-specific and developed in consultation with affected user groups. (b) Continue to follow the provisions and guidance stated in the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1999). [Note: The Cave Management Plan directs monitoring of cave resources and impacts. It includes direction to conduct comprehensive inventories of each cave’s physical and structural makeup and biological life. Where needed to protect cave resources, special management actions would be implemented such as surface vehicular closures, marking travel routes through caves, installing bat gates, and requiring permits for visitor use. Law enforcement and public education strategies and actions are also discussed.] (c) Restrict access to the cave(s) containing bats during winter hibernation periods (October 15 through May 1), except for approved research or BLM management actions. Prohibit access to caves which provide maternity roosts from June 1 through August 31. (d) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits. (e) Limit vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails. (f) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP leases, land use permits). (g) Designate a total of 13 caves as significant.</p>	

Issue/Concern	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA</p> <p>Relevance: Outstanding cave scenery and examples of volcanism and lava tube formation. Significant hibernating populations of two bat species, both BLM sensitive species. Diverse cave-adapted insect community. Known paleontological resources, including remains of extinct or extirpated species.</p> <p>Importance: Unique variety, abundance, and undisturbed character of cave features. Hibernation habitat for significant numbers of a BLM sensitive species (Townsend’s big-eared bat). Unusual plant and invertebrate communities. High potential of additional fossil resources.</p>	<p>The nominated Tee-Maze ACEC would not be proposed for designation. General management of the Tee-Maze area would continue as described in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (the MFP contains some general statements encouraging protection of known cave resources). (Also see Bennett Hills ACEC “Alternative 1” description on page 47.) Caves in the Tee-Maze area would continue to be managed according to the current Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1999). Caves which the BLM has determined are significant would continue to be protected under the Cave Resources Protection Act.</p>		<p>Designate 10,762 acres as the Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA to protect significant subsurface resources and focus use of the area on research and education. Implement the following actions to highlight management of the identified scenic, wildlife, and cave values: (a) Prepare an activity plan for the Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA. The plan will incorporate limitations on any activity that may adversely impact physical, biological, or cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; and Limits of Acceptable Change concepts to protect cave resource values. The Limits of Acceptable Change will be cave-specific and developed in consultation with affected user groups. (b) Continue to follow the provisions and guidance stated in the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1999). [Note: The Cave Management Plan directs monitoring of cave resources and impacts. It includes direction to conduct comprehensive inventories of each cave’s physical and structural makeup and biological life. Where needed to protect cave resources, special management actions would be implemented such as surface vehicular closures, marking travel routes through caves, installing bat gates, and requiring permits for visitor use. Law enforcement and public education strategies and actions are also discussed.] (c) Restrict access to the cave(s) containing bats during winter hibernation periods (October 15 through May 1), except for approved research or BLM management actions. Prohibit access to caves which provide maternity roosts from June 1 through August 31. (d) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to State Highway 75. (e) Limit vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails, except for (1) allowing the existing stackable blocky lava rock permit holder to continue to have cross-country access to his permitted area for the duration of his permit, and (2) allowing cross-country access within the Mammoth Cave Common Use Area. (f) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP leases, land use permits). (g) Designate a total of 12 caves as significant.</p>	

Amendments Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring plan described below would apply to all three action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4). The following steps would be taken to monitor implementation of the approved amendments (the selected alternative) through an annual and five-year review process.

Annually, the BLM will complete these actions:

- Identify the amendments' management direction accomplished and the management decisions that are planned for implementation during the coming year. Notify public land users of these accomplishments and plans by posting the results of the monitoring on the Shoshone Field Office's homepage.

Land Tenure

- Document lands program actions that were implemented during the past year.
- Update the information in Appendix 6 (lands currently available for disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act) and the land status and lands management zones maps to reflect any land tenure adjustments that have taken place during the preceding year.
- Identify land tenure actions that are planned for implementation.

ACECS (including the five existing ACECs)

- Document all actions occurring within or pertaining to the existing and newly designated ACECs during the past year.
 - Identify management direction that is expected to be implemented during the coming year.
- Evaluate the amendments' implementation by addressing at least the following questions about the direction that was implemented:

Was the specified activity carried out as described and authorized? If not, why wasn't it?
Was the specified activity successful in achieving its objective?

Every five years, the annual monitoring information will be evaluated along with the amendments and all interim reports. Questions to be answered will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Are actions outlined in the amendments being implemented?
- Are the desired outcomes being achieved?
- Do decisions continue to be correct and proper over time?
- Are there new data or analyses that affect the planning decisions or NEPA analysis?
- Are there new legal mandates not addressed in the land use plans or amendments?
- Are any modifications (maintenance, amendment, or revision) needed to the plans?

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Environmental Impacts

The BLM considered all of the following elements of the human environment when analyzing the impacts of the proposed land tenure and ACEC designation amendments to the existing land use plans (Magic MFP, Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP, Sun Valley MFP, Monument RMP, and Jarbidge RMP). Some of the listed elements of the human environment are subject to specific requirements specified in statutes, regulations, executive orders, or policy (see Appendix 2, Part A, page 125). Others are included because they are among the resources and land uses managed by the Shoshone Field Office. Elements checked with an “x” are not affected (or are only minimally affected) by either the lands or ACECs portions of the proposed amendments and are therefore not analyzed in this chapter. A brief rationale for why certain elements are not affected (or are only minimally affected) by either the lands and/or the ACECs portion of the amendments is provided in Appendix 2, Part B (pp. 126-127).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Status Species (threatened, endangered, sensitive, candidate, proposed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Floodplains/Wetlands/Riparian Areas*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilderness Study Areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prime/Unique Farm Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild and Scenic Rivers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing ACECs/Natural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native American Religious Concerns/Traditional Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Quality (Drinking or Ground)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Rights/ Indian Trust Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off-highway Vehicle Use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cave Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paleontological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wastes (Hazardous or Solid)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic/Social Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Special Designations (National Monument, Wilderness, National Recreation Trails)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Availability of Access/Need to Reserve Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation Use, Existing and Potential
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock Grazing/Rangeland Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetation Types/Communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Invasive/Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural Entry

*Mitigated effects are described in Appendix 2, Part B.

Table 5 displays the environmental impacts of the land tenure and management actions proposed in the amendments. The left-hand column lists the affected resources or programs, while the remaining four columns describe the impacts of each alternative to those resources or programs. Table 6 discusses the environmental impacts of the seven ACEC designations proposed in these amendments.

Table 5 - Environmental Impacts of Proposed Land Tenure Adjustment and Lands Management Actions

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Assumptions of Analysis	BLM lands disposed of would go into State, county, or private ownership and would be utilized for agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, Recreation and Public Purposes, or infrastructures (such as roads and power lines for the local communities). It is assumed that, to the extent possible, all development would take place in accordance with local zoning and land use ordinances and would be in conformance with State, local, and Federal environmental protection regulations. It is also assumed that the lag time from actual land tenure adjustment initiation to development for any one parcel or area could be up to ten years or longer, thus giving community infrastructure time to grow and still provide adequate services.			
	The BLM has no existing land exchange proposals for the disposal tracts currently identified in the existing land use plans. Therefore, an assumption can be made that the lands currently identified for potential disposal are not lands that members of the public are interested in acquiring.		The BLM's Shoshone Field Office has a limited number of staff to complete land tenure adjustment actions. Therefore, only a limited number of sales and/or exchanges would take place if the required work was accomplished with only BLM employees and funding. Over the planning horizon of approximately twenty years, it is anticipated that through partnerships, the potential number of exchanges realized will actually be higher. Local counties have expressed an interest in helping the BLM to meet their constituents' expectations. Private individuals have also indicated a willingness to assist the BLM in completing sales and /or exchanges. Therefore, with outside support and partnering, the number of sales and/or exchanges per year may increase. Combining several small parcels into a single sale and/or exchange may also increase the BLM's ability and provide the opportunity to acquire high value resource lands in a timely manner.	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Access</i></p> <p>Current management direction to retain existing public access ensures that existing access will continue to be available to public lands users. Acquisition of public access is currently a low priority, and most access is acquired in conjunction with other actions. The need for public access has increased, however. As private lands are developed, landowners seek access to their properties; the general public land user also seeks access to public lands for various purposes (mostly recreational). Existing management provides limited opportunity to increase public access through land exchanges, since few public lands are identified for disposal, and the identified lands do not appear to be in public demand. It is therefore likely that the demand for public access will continue to exceed the availability of access.</p>	<p>Current management direction to retain existing public access ensures that existing access will continue to be available to public lands users. Acquisition of public access is currently a low priority, and most access is acquired in conjunction with other actions. The need for public access has increased, however. As private lands are developed, landowners seek access to their properties; the general public land user also seeks access to public lands for various purposes (mostly recreational). Existing management provides limited opportunity to increase public access through land exchanges, since few public lands are identified for disposal, and the identified lands do not appear to be in public demand. It is therefore likely that the demand for public access will continue to exceed the availability of access.</p>	<p>Parcels that provide public or administrative access to larger blocks of public land are identified as a high priority for retention or acquisition. This action will help focus the lands program on those land tenure adjustments that provide the greatest benefit in terms of access and other benefits (such as improved manageability or high resource values). The emphasis on protecting the access area (e.g., parking area adjacent to a trailhead) and associated resources from adverse impacts will help ensure that newly acquired access meets public or administrative needs, with a minimum impact to the public lands. Coordinating access needs and priorities with the Tribes, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and local governments would ensure that the Tribes have access to their traditional use areas on public lands, address the Tribes' concerns for protecting sensitive areas, address concerns about wildlife and their habitat needs, and address the concerns of local governments. The emphasis on acquiring legal access (versus merely providing physical access) ensures those public benefits will be secured for the long term.</p>	<p>Pursuing a balance of public and BLM administrative access would allow the BLM to improve access to more parcels than under Alternative 2, since administrative access is less expensive to acquire than public access. In addition, this alternative's focus on land exchanges to consolidate public lands, improve management efficiency, and manage by a watershed approach, would eventually block up lands ownership in the planning area so there would be less need for public or administrative access.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 2. In addition, pursuing BLM administrative access would enable the BLM to improve access to more parcels than under any other alternative, since administrative access is less expensive to acquire than public access. Increased administrative access would allow the BLM to better manage public lands resources.</p>
		<p>Limiting the acquisition of new public access to the minimum number of sites required to access large blocks of public land would result in fewer new public access points than Alternative 3. The potential would exist for excessive use on those newly acquired areas, even though the BLM would make every effort to choose access points that minimize impacts. As under Alternative 1, the demand for public access would likely continue to exceed the supply of public access.</p>		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i></p>	<p>Existing law and policy (e.g., FLPMA and related policy) preclude taking any land tenure adjustment or other lands action that would cause significant adverse impacts to any of the values that were identified under the relevance and importance criteria for a designated ACEC.</p>			
	<p>Existing policy precludes the disposal of public lands within a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Existing management direction would also limit the BLM's ability to acquire non-public lands adjacent to or within an ACEC in order to improve management efficiency or acquire high resource values. Tracts that are currently identified for potential disposal may not necessarily interest land owners who would be willing to participate in a land exchange.</p>		<p>The proposed amendments place all existing ACECs in lands management Zone 1; these lands would be retained in public ownership and would not be available for disposal. The proposed land tenure adjustment criteria emphasize acquisition of inholdings within existing ACECs and lands adjacent to and important for expansion of those ACECs. In addition, the proposed Camas Creek ACEC designation specifically states a management action to do so. Over time this management should improve the quality of resources within the affected ACECs by improving management efficiency and through acquisition of high resource values.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Cultural Resources</i></p>	<p>Proposed land tenure adjustments and lands management actions would be subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Act requires the BLM to identify archaeological and historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places and to determine if these properties would be affected by a specific action. The BLM also recognizes that American Indians may ascribe religious and/or traditional cultural values to these properties and Tribal consultation would be necessary.</p>			
	<p>In general, where significant historic properties are located, they would be excluded from transfer out of Federal ownership. However, In certain instances, through appropriate mitigation, some properties may be eligible for transfer from Federal ownership. Identification and evaluation of these properties, determination of effect, and the development of mitigating measures would only take place in consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, affected Tribes, and other interested parties. These actions would take place in association with separate NEPA analyses and decisions on a case-by-case basis.</p>		<p>Same as Alternative 1. In addition, the plan amendments identify significant cultural resources, lands eligible for inclusion on the National Register, and National Historic Trails as a high priority for retention, acquisition, or acquisition of inholdings. Over time, this lands retention and acquisition emphasis is expected to increase the quality and quantity of cultural resources managed by the Shoshone Field Office, and also improve the BLM’s ability to manage these resources effectively and responsibly. Examples of cultural resources that may be acquired include prehistoric and historic sites and additional sections of two National Historic Trails.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Economy and Society</i>	<p><i>Land Exchange Priorities:</i> The existing land use plans make few tracts available for disposal, and the tracts available are generally not ones the public is interested in acquiring. Some private land owners have come to rely upon public lands for a portion of their irrigation system or other agricultural practices. These tracts that are currently authorized for agricultural purposes under temporary use permits are not identified for disposal in the existing land use plans; thus, no long term resolutions of the private landowners' needs or the BLM's administrative concerns for managing this program are feasible without a plan amendment to identify additional disposal tracts.</p>	<p><i>Land Exchange Priorities:</i> Alternative 2 would emphasize land exchanges that increase public lands resource values and/or management efficiency. This would result in better-managed, higher resource value public lands for the general public lands user to enjoy, but not as many opportunities to address private landowners' or local communities' needs through land tenure adjustments.</p>	<p><i>Land Exchange Priorities:</i> Alternative 3 would emphasize land tenure adjustments that provide opportunity to consolidate public lands, accommodate the need for community expansion, improve management in areas with existing high resource values, and/or resolve long-standing unauthorized uses. This alternative provides the flexibility to increase resource benefits for the general public lands user, while also addressing the needs of local communities and private landowners.</p>	<p><i>Land Exchange Priorities:</i> Alternative 4 emphasizes disposal of isolated, unmanageable parcels of public lands in order to improve management efficiency and resolve long-standing unauthorized uses. As a result, this alternative would primarily address the needs of private landowners. High resource value lands would not necessarily be retained or acquired, and the land tenure adjustment needs of local communities, the State, and members of the general public would only be addressed if workload priorities allowed.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Economy and Society</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/ Lands to Support Local Needs:</i> Disposal of lands through the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act or through land exchange could only occur on parcels identified for disposal. Few, if any, of these disposal tracts would enhance or facilitate the community growth, economic development (e.g., recreation and tourism), and infrastructure needs of State, county, and local governments. [continued]</p>		<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/Lands to Support Local Needs:</i> More public lands would be available for potential disposal through R&PP patent than under existing management. Acquisition of public lands could potentially benefit counties or towns that wish to provide additional developments for infrastructure and services such as health care, education, development of water resources, and recreation. The proposed amendments may also stimulate some sectors of local economies since more public lands would be available to accommodate economic development.</p> <p>The BLM anticipates that those communities and/or counties that promote the orderly development or use of natural resources and are in need of additional opportunities for economic development and growth of infrastructure would find that the amended planning documents are more consistent with their planning goals and objectives.</p>	<p>[continued]</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Economy and Society</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/ Lands to Support Local Needs (continued):</i> Opportunities to meet the land tenure adjustment needs of government entities in a timely manner (i.e., without a land use plan amendment) would continue to be limited. In order to accommodate the growth and infrastructure needs of communities, the BLM would need to complete costly and inefficient land use plan amendments that identify disposal tracts of interest to the governments.</p> <p>The BLM anticipates that those communities and/or counties that promote the orderly development or use of natural resources and are in need of additional opportunities for economic development and infrastructure growth would increasingly find that the existing planning documents are inconsistent with their planning goals and objectives.</p>	<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/ Lands to Support Local Needs (continued):</i> Although some public lands would be allowed for disposal in Zones 2-5, opportunities for communities to acquire public lands to facilitate community growth, economic development, and increased infrastructure would be limited due to this alternative’s retention and acquisition priority. Land tenure adjustments through R&PP patents would only be a high priority if the adjustment enabled the BLM to retain high resource value lands (including open space in Zone 5), acquire additional high resource value lands, consolidate public lands, and/or reconnect habitats within priority habitats. However, this alternative’s emphasis on “open space” would have an indirect benefit to communities that desire open space for recreational or other purposes.</p>	<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/ Lands to Support Local Needs (continued):</i> Alternative 3 emphasizes disposal of public lands in order to accommodate the need for community expansion. Thus, land tenure adjustments through R&PP patent would be a higher priority under Alternative 3 than under Alternatives 2 or 4. In addition, Alternative 3 would prioritize other land tenure adjustments that complement local governments’ Master and/or Comprehensive Plans. This alternative would be expected to be most conducive to helping local governments meet their planning goals and objectives.</p>	<p><i>R&PP Leases and Patents/ Lands to Support Local Needs (continued):</i> Although some public lands would be allowed for disposal in Zones 2-4, opportunities for community growth, increased infrastructure, and disposal of unmanageable isolated parcels would be limited due to this alternative’s emphasis on private land exchanges. Land tenure adjustments through R&PP patents would only be a high priority if the disposal tract was considered to be isolated and unmanageable. Few of these tracts are likely to be of interest to local communities. In addition, this alternative would not emphasize retention or acquisition of “open space.” This alternative would have more potential lands for disposal for community purposes than Alternative 1, but more competing priorities for land tenure adjustment than Alternatives 2 and 3.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Economy and Society</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Open Space: Note:</i> The economic and social impacts to the Zone 5 area (see Map 3) are important to Wood River Valley residents, businesses, and visitors, since tourism is the largest industry in the area.</p>			
	<p><i>Open Space:</i> The existing land use plans are silent on the topic of open space. Although no specific priority has been placed on managing public lands in the Wood River Valley to maintain open space, land tenure adjustments completed in that area have generally expanded open space by consolidating public lands ownership. It is unlikely additional land tenure adjustments to expand “open space” would occur in the Wood River Valley area, since few tracts in that vicinity are currently identified for disposal.</p>	<p><i>Open Space:</i> Alternative 2’s emphasis on acquisition of high resource value lands may eventually increase the extent of public lands considered to be “open space.” This would benefit local communities that are interested in retaining and expanding open space. However, generally retaining public lands in Zone 5 as “open space” would limit the tracts in this area that could be made available for disposal to local communities through R&PP patents. Restrictions on existing and new permits, leases, or agreements would potentially limit local development by precluding some authorizations that are needed to expand existing and approve future uses such as power lines, roads, and other facilities desired by local communities. Restricting rights-of-way and prohibiting new access developments may prevent some private landowners from accessing and developing their properties.</p>	<p><i>Open Space:</i> The land tenure actions under Alternative 3 would allow much more flexibility than Alternative 2 for the BLM to maintain or increase “open space” in the Zone 5 area while simultaneously satisfying communities’ needs for infrastructure and economic development. Open spaces would likely increase over time as the BLM uses land exchanges to consolidate public lands. Alternative 3 also provides the greatest opportunity to utilize R&PP patents to achieve public purposes, thereby increasing the likelihood that local communities can achieve their goals for infrastructure and economic development.</p>	<p><i>Open Space:</i> Consideration of “open space” would not be a management emphasis under Alternative 4. Future land use authorizations or land tenure adjustments could decrease the quality and extent of open space in the Wood River Valley. This change could affect visitors’ experiences of the area and possibly affect the local tourism industry. However, Alternative 4’s emphasis on land use authorizations and land tenure adjustments would (1) allow for economic development and expansion and (2) address the interests of local applicants for permits, grants, leases, or agreements.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Economy and Society</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>DLE/Carey Act Applications and Lands Transfer:</i> Disposal of lands through the Carey Act and the Desert Land Entry (DLE) Act can occur only on parcels identified for disposal. No DLE or Carey Act lands were identified for disposal in the existing land use plans; therefore, a land use plan amendment would be required before transfer of ownership could occur in order to resolve the 21 current applications. Existing management means a delay of final action in perpetuity, with no opportunity to complete a final lands transfer to those applicants who have met their requirements.</p>		<p><i>DLE/Carey Act Applications and Lands Transfer:</i> These amendments would benefit the 21 DLE/Carey Act applicants who have been waiting more than ten years to complete their requirements and ultimately transfer ownership, because the tracts they are interested in would finally be available for disposal. Disposal of these tracts should have no impact to public lands resources, since the lands have already been developed for years. The restriction on new DLE/Carey Act applications should have no impact on future agricultural development, since no applications have been received during the past 10 years and no recent interest in the programs has been demonstrated.</p>	
				<p><i>Retention/Disposal of Forest Resources:</i> Retaining lands within the commercial timber base in public ownership would maintain the potential for timber sales and their economic value to the local economy. Any additional social or economic impacts from the proposed disposal or acquisition of parcels with forest resources would be analyzed site-specifically when the land tenure adjustment proposal is reviewed.</p>
				<p><i>Resolution of Unauthorized Use:</i> Prohibiting the issue of new permits to cross BLM lands for private farming practices would affect private landowners who require a public parcel of land to make a full pivot rotation. These farmers would have to place their pivots in reverse, which is an inefficient and uneconomical practice. This action would, however, reduce the BLM's administrative workload associated with temporary use permits and thereby increase the time and resources that could be used to address other lands and realty actions of benefit to the general public. It would also maintain more acres of public land in a condition that supports multiple uses, including more diverse wildlife habitat.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Forest Resources</i>	<p>The Sun Valley MFP identified public lands with forest resources for transfer to the USFS only. It is unlikely these lands will be transferred, since they were first identified in 1982 and a transfer is still not completed.</p> <p>No public lands in the timber base are currently identified for disposal to the general public; therefore, no further impacts to forest resources would occur from existing land tenure decisions. Note: It should be understood that the commercial timber base within the planning area is very limited and the effect of any of the alternatives is likely to be small.</p>	<p>Public lands in the timber base would be retained; thus there would be no impact to those forest lands (approximately 15,200 acres).</p>	<p>Small, isolated and hard-to-manage parcels within the commercial timber base would be considered for disposal if they meet the disposal criteria. An initial search of the commercial timber base has not discovered any parcels that fit this description. It is unlikely (but not impossible) that future timber base evaluations and designations could identify such parcels. There would be no immediate effect resulting from this decision.</p>	<p>Parcels within the commercial timber base would not be constrained for disposal if they meet the disposal criteria. An initial search of the commercial timber base has not discovered any parcels that fit this description. It is unlikely (but not impossible) that future timber base evaluations and designations could identify such parcels. There would be no immediate effect resulting from this decision.</p>
		<p>Stands of deciduous trees are usually associated with riparian areas or wetlands in the planning area. Because these areas are a high priority for retention or acquisition, it is likely the acreage of deciduous forest stands in the planning area would be maintained or increase over time. It is unlikely that non-commercial conifer stands would be transferred from public ownership, since there is little private interest in developing these lands. They usually occur on steep, north-facing slopes and are difficult to develop in an environmentally-safe manner. Proposed management emphasizes acquisition of high value resources, which may result in opportunity to acquire high value coniferous or deciduous forested habitat.</p>		
<i>Lands Program</i>	<p>The analysis of impacts to the lands program assumes that all alternatives would be funded at the same level. Thus, the absolute number of lands actions that could be completed would remain similar under each alternative. The alternatives would, however, differ in the types of lands actions and land tenure adjustments that would be emphasized.</p>			

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>State/Private Land Exchanges:</i> The BLM’s opportunity to pursue State or private land exchanges would continue to be limited since few parcels are identified for disposal in the existing land use plans. In addition, those parcels identified do not appear to meet the public’s needs. It is unlikely that land exchange actions would be completed under existing management.</p> <p>The BLM would continue to be limited in its ability to use land tenure adjustments to improve public lands management and resources.</p>	<p><i>State/Private Land Exchanges:</i> In emphasizing exchanges with the State over private land exchanges, the BLM would be maximizing its opportunities to consolidate large parcels of land and manage those parcels in a consistent manner. This would be the most economical and efficient exchange process as a minimum number of actions would result in large exchanges of property. This emphasis would, however, reduce the priority for completing private land exchanges that may allow the BLM to acquire lands with important watershed attributes, such as perennial water.</p>	<p><i>State/Private Land Exchanges:</i> Pooling numerous small private and State land exchanges into a few efficient, large exchanges whenever possible would increase the efficiency of the land exchange program. Emphasizing public land consolidation and acquisition in high priority watersheds would increase the BLM’s opportunity to manage public lands on a watershed basis. The emphasis on both State and private land exchanges would give the BLM more flexibility to use land tenure adjustments to improve public lands management and resources.</p>	<p><i>State/Private Land Exchanges:</i> Emphasizing private land exchanges would likely result in numerous exchange applications for small parcels and a less efficient exchange program than under Alternatives 2 or 3. The increased availability of lands for disposal to private landowners would likely contribute to an increased workload and decreased response time for all land tenure adjustment actions. The results would be a slower consolidation of public land and decreased responsiveness to potential State exchanges and other lands actions of potential interest to the general public. Although private landowners’ concerns would be resolved through exchanges (and some lands of value to the public may be acquired), other lands actions may not be addressed due to limited resources.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Sales:</i> Land exchanges would continue to be a higher priority than sales for completing land tenure adjustments. It is unlikely that any sales would occur under existing management, since the identified disposal tracts do not appear to meet the public's needs.</p>	<p><i>Sales:</i> Land exchanges would still be a higher priority than sales for completing land tenure adjustments. Prohibiting the disposal of public lands within Zone 1 would provide continued management of those lands for their special uses, thereby benefitting the resources and values associated with the Zone 1 areas. Disposal of public lands through land sales is a low priority in Zones 2 and 3; the most benefit would occur with the sale of isolated parcels. Disposal would benefit landowners who have small pieces of public lands in the middle of their private lands, by allowing consolidation of the public lands into private land uses. Zone 4 would have the greatest flexibility for lands disposals through sale (and exchange) initiatives. Long term unauthorized uses within Zone 4 could potentially be resolved through sale, relieving the BLM of the responsibility of managing small pieces of public lands over the long term. This resolution would benefit the permittee by allowing for the consolidation of the permitted land use into the private land operation. In Zone 5 (classified as Zone 3 lands under Alternative 5) the sale of isolated parcels resulting from mining patents and resurvey would benefit public lands management because these parcels are for the most part inaccessible and/or unmanageable.</p>		
		<p>Alternative 2 would only allow sales in Zone 5 if they are small, isolated parcels left from mining patents or resurvey, thus potentially affecting private land owners in that zone who have parcels meeting their needs but do not meet the two requirements. For example, a landowner may currently hold a right-of-way across public lands for their driveway, but would prefer to own the land.</p>	<p>Alternative 3 provides the flexibility to consider land sales as an option for improving management efficiency and managing according to a watershed approach. Public lands isolated because of features such as roads and canals could be considered for disposal through sale, thus potentially benefitting the adjacent landowners and improving the BLM's management efficiency.</p>	<p>Alternative 4 allows the greatest amount of flexibility to dispose of public lands through sale. Isolated public lands that meet the land tenure adjustment criteria could be disposed of through sale if the sale would address the needs of the private landowner. Disposal of isolated parcels would increase the manageability of the remaining public lands and reduce the use and administration of permits.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Aquifer Recharge Sites:</i> The Magic Valley has been built around water systems developed many years ago. Agricultural transportation systems have improved from furrow ditches to various sprinkler systems. Meanwhile, however, the amount of water has remained stable and the main canals still leak from 10 to 30%. Uses have increased in terms of acres irrigated, numbers of domestic wells, and municipality growth. To insure a stable water supply, the State of Idaho and special interests are proposing recharge sites to maintain the aquifer at a level to maintain the public's needs. The BLM has potential recharge sites and there are also numerous sites on private lands within the planning area. The recharge sites usually occur along major canals or rivers, as sources of water from either flood conditions or after the farming season and before freezing temperatures. The social, economic, and biological impacts of these sites are a major concern to both industry and environmental interests.</p> <p>The BLM currently authorizes one recharge site (in the Shoshone Wilderness Study Area) with a long-term Cooperative Agreement. The existing authorized site would continue to be authorized and monitored in terms of the Agreement and the WSA Interim Management Plan as long as the reasons for special designation are not impacted. This authorization should have no additional impact to the lands program.</p> <p>One pending pilot project right-of-way along the Milner-Gooding Canal is expected to be authorized in the near future. This pilot project would assess the impacts from the recharge site (e.g., monitoring wells would evaluate the content of chemicals in the water) and help determine future use of recharge sites. This use would require extensive coordination with State, Federal, and private organizations involved in the recharge program, as well as bi-annual or more frequent compliance and monitoring checks. If this project is determined to be acceptable, multiple applications would likely be made for recharge sites within the Shoshone Field Office and State-wide.</p>			
<p>Authorizing the pending recharge site and future sites under rights-of-way would likely consume the time and resources of the lands program, leaving little time or resources available for other lands related work. The pilot site and future rights-of-way that might be authorized under this alternative, would be managed and monitored in accordance with the appropriate right-of-way stipulations.</p>		<p>The BLM would prefer to transfer ownership of potential recharge sites to the State for management into the future. Transferring ownership would reduce the BLM's administrative workload, since those sites kept in BLM ownership would require frequent monitoring and compliance checks. The proposed amendments would allow transfer of sites that are approved by the BLM through appropriate environmental documentation.</p> <p>The BLM anticipates that the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) will implement a major aquifer recharge program. The State of Idaho may be required to complete a single EIS to address all of the issues and sites. The BLM would be able to exchange with the State the pending recharge site along the Milner-Gooding Canal and those parcels in Zones 2 and 4 that are proposed on BLM lands for use and analyzed in the EIS, to allow IDWR the ability to develop and manage the sites on State land versus through long-term authorizations from the BLM. Transferring ownership rather than maintaining long term authorizations would reduce the amount of time, personnel, and expense the BLM would incur. More resources and personnel would be available to work on other lands actions.</p>		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Resolution of Unauthorized Use:</i> Administration of temporary use permits is a huge workload that takes time away from other public demand actions. Most temporary use permits have been renewed every three years while awaiting the outcome of a prior planning effort and now these proposed amendments. The permits are a low priority, except for compliance and evaluation checks when a permit is up for renewal. Long-term permit compliance is low, and site rehabilitation (if a permit is relinquished) is difficult without close supervision and irrigation. Other issues include noxious weed infestation due to soil disturbance and tilling practices. Because these parcels have already been developed for years, no additional resource impacts are expected. Management of the sheer number of parcels involved and the low revenue they generate have resulted in a reduced priority for the program.</p> <p>[continued]</p>	<p><i>Resolution of Unauthorized Use:</i> After the amendments become final, existing unauthorized use permits would be evaluated for disposal. If disposal is allowed under the specified criteria, the tracts would be offered to the permit holder in the levels of priority indicated in the alternative selected.</p> <p>Individuals with current land use authorizations would be allowed to acquire the permitted public lands through exchange (first priority) or sale (lower priority) if the lands meet the adjustment criteria in Appendix 1. However, processing these disposal actions would be a low priority. In addition, it may be difficult for private landowners to offer lands that the BLM is interested in acquiring through exchange. It is therefore likely that the majority of permits would be retired and rehabilitated prior to the time a land tenure adjustment could be completed.</p>	<p>Resolution of unauthorized use through land tenure adjustment (exchange or sale) would be a greater priority than under Alternative 2. These actions would be incorporated into the lands and realty workload through the annual work plan process as the affected sites are evaluated and determined to be suitable for disposal. It is therefore expected that some uses would be resolved through disposal, which would consolidate management of some public and private lands.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Resolution of Unauthorized Use (continued):</i> Existing permits may continue to be authorized as long as they meet current policy when the permit is renewed. However, it is expected the majority of permittees would have to discontinue their permitted use because of the current water rights policy. (The property owner (BLM) must hold the water right for the duration of the permit, and the permit holder may not want to transfer this right.)</p> <p>The impacts to private landowners would vary depending on how much they rely on public lands for their agricultural enterprise. Most permit holders want to acquire the lands they are currently using. Land tenure adjustment is unlikely to occur under existing management, however, since few of the permitted parcels are currently identified for disposal.</p>			<p><i>Resolution of Unauthorized Use (continued):</i> Over time, transfer of ownership and long term authorizations are expected to reduce the presently high workload needed to administer numerous short-term permits. This would leave more time and resources available to complete other types of lands and realty actions.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Lands Program</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Communication Sites:</i> Continuing the existing communication site authorizations would not involve any new issues, concerns, or impacts to public lands or the lands program. The State of Idaho would not be able to acquire lands that would meet their programs and goals.</p>	<p><i>Communication Sites:</i> The exchange of communications sites could produce an in-holding in some areas (i.e., State lands surrounded by public lands). The current users may eventually have higher rental fees as they are assimilated into the State lands system. New users may be easily accommodated through the State’s leasing procedures and would also benefit from having one source for all their needs. Transfer of these sites would reduce revenues received by the BLM. However, the BLM could realize a workload benefit from having fewer communication sites to manage and no longer being responsible for ancillary support associated with the sites. (Since the BLM would be transferring the entire complex, the BLM would be relieved of any needs associated with the site.) Some access roads to communication sites are currently maintained by the BLM. The BLM would no longer have the responsibility of their maintenance and would be able to direct those funds to other projects.</p>		
	<p><i>Public/Private Boundary Adjustments:</i> Few public/private boundary adjustments are expected to occur under existing management, since the identified disposal tracts do not seem to meet the public’s needs.</p>	<p><i>Public/Private Boundary Adjustments:</i> As lands are disposed of or acquired, new boundaries are established, with a subsequent need to physically identify the new boundaries. Boundary identification is expected to require additional materials, staffing, and time. If new boundaries are not identified, there could be future land use issues such as unintentional unauthorized use.</p> <p>Public/private boundary adjustments could be utilized to resolve situations such as where farming practices border public lands. These adjustments would increase the farmer’s management efficiency and conservation of water while resolving cases of unauthorized use.</p>		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Lands Program</i> (continued)	<i>Split mineral estate:</i> Split mineral estate situations (federal minerals with private surface ownership) are difficult to manage. Under existing management direction, the BLM would have limited ability to acquire high resource value lands or pursue land exchanges to consolidate Federal lands and enhance management because of the limited number of disposal tracts that can be offered in exchange for private lands. This could result in the loss of opportunities to acquire other lands in exchange for the mineral estate of the private surface landowner.	<i>Split mineral estate:</i> An emphasis on eliminating split mineral estate would provide an opportunity for the BLM to acquire high resource value lands while relinquishing sub-surface mineral rights. This would result in a net increase in public lands available for uses such as open space, recreation, grazing, forest management, and wildlife habitat management. This effort will also improve the manageability of the mineral resource and subsequently the BLM’s ability to manage parcels where both the surface and subsurface are federally owned.		
<i>Livestock Grazing Program</i>	Existing management identified a limited number of tracts for disposal. No public interest in those tracts has been shown in recent history, indicating it is unlikely those lands would be disposed of. Thus, no impacts to the livestock grazing program are anticipated from existing land tenure decisions.	There may be unquantifiable impacts to the livestock grazing program as a result of land tenure adjustments. Land tenure adjustments may affect the cost or availability of grazing as public lands are exchanged for private or State lands or as public lands are disposed of. Where exchanges with the State are involved, there would be a change in fees and management for the users, depending on ownership in their respective allotments. Currently, BLM grazing fees are less than State fees. The fee impacts would be ascertained on a site-specific basis when the land tenure adjustment proposal is analyzed.		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Minerals Resources</i>	Current policy direction allows the sale or exchange of mineral rights. However, such transfer of mineral resources (to resolve split estate situations or as an outcome of other lands actions) is unlikely under existing management, since the identified disposal tracts do not appear to meet the public's needs. Thus, no impacts to the minerals resource would be expected from existing land tenure management.		Site-specific mineral reports would be prepared for every proposed land tenure adjustment. (Note: Some land tenure adjustment authorities specifically preclude the disposal of public lands known to be mineral in character. In those situations the lands would remain in public ownership with no effect to minerals resources.) In general, land tenure adjustments would take into account fair market values, including mineral resources. The general fund would be compensated accordingly, with no overall loss to the public-at-large. If the action was under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, those funds would be placed in an account available for the purchase of additional lands and not sent to the general fund; this could potentially benefit the public land user since the value of the relinquished minerals resources could be used to acquire high resource value lands of interest to the general public. Land tenure adjustments to eliminate split mineral estate would seek to have a positive impact on both the private surface land owner and the BLM. The impacts of giving up mineral values in exchange for surface resource values would be analyzed in a minerals report when the land exchange transaction is proposed.	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Paleontological Resources</i>	<p>Existing management does not emphasize retention or acquisition of significant paleontological resources. There is some risk that lands with known or possible paleontological resources could be transferred from public to private ownership. While some protection is given these resources under Federal ownership, no protection is provided under private ownership. The risk of loss of significant known paleontological resources is low, however, since these resources must be considered during the NEPA analysis that would be completed prior to any land tenure adjustment. In addition, it is unlikely any land tenure adjustments would occur under existing management, since the identified disposal tracts do not appear to meet the public's needs.</p>		<p>NEPA only requires full consideration of paleontological resources during the environmental assessment and planning process, whereas these land use plan amendments clarify that areas with significant paleontological resources would generally be retained in public ownership. However, parcels with significant paleontological resources may be exchanged for lands with higher resource values on a case-by-case basis. This presents some risk that significant known paleontological resources could be transferred from public ownership to private ownership. While some protection is given these resources under Federal ownership, no protection is provided under private ownership.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Recreation	<p>The Idaho Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would maintain the number of public land parcels intermingled with agricultural areas. As these parcels are managed specifically for hunters and upland bird habitat, recreational hunting opportunities for species like pheasants would be maintained.</p>	<p>The Idaho Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would maintain or increase the number of public land parcels intermingled with agricultural areas. As these parcels are managed specifically for hunters and upland bird habitat, recreational hunting opportunities for species like pheasants would be maintained or increased.</p>	<p>The number of parcels managed under the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would likely decrease as existing tracts are exchanged for equal or higher wildlife values and in order to consolidate fragmented wildlife habitats. This would reduce public access for hunting and other recreational uses on some lands adjacent to agricultural areas. In most cases this loss would likely be offset by an increase in wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity on the acquired lands.</p>	<p>As the Isolated Wildlife Tracts are disposed of over time (most probably into private ownership with subsequent agricultural or commercial development), it is likely that hiding cover and winter habitat for pheasants and other species would be lost, and a subsequent decline in upland bird habitat would occur. Recreational hunting opportunities would also decrease.</p>
	<p>The current inability to exchange small and/or unmanageable tracts for parcels that would help to consolidate public holdings represents lost opportunities for increased recreational use.</p>	<p>Land exchanges for like or greater values would increase the likelihood that land with recreational values would be retained or acquired, with a subsequent net increase in recreational opportunities on public lands. Emphasis on acquiring legal public access would also increase public land users' opportunities to pursue recreation activities on public lands.</p>		<p>Alternative 4 would not emphasize acquisition of legal public access or the acquisition of public lands with high value resources. Opportunity for recreation on public lands would likely decrease as public lands are transferred into private ownership in order to resolve long term unauthorized uses.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Native American Religious Concerns/Traditional Uses</i>	Existing law (National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act) directs the BLM to consult with affected tribes on proposed land tenure adjustments (and other actions) and seek to mitigate impacts to Native American religious concerns or traditional uses. This ensures that tribal interests are considered and adverse impacts to those interests are mitigated to the extent possible.	Same as Alternative 1. In addition, the proposed amendments state that lands specifically identified by the Shoshone-Bannock and/or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes as having special importance related to traditional uses and values would be a high priority for retention or acquisition (see Appendix 1). This management action assures that public lands of known importance to the Tribes would be retained in public ownership, and increases the likelihood that the BLM would seek to acquire lands of importance to the Tribes. Proposed management would maintain or increase the acreage of public lands with resource values for tribal subsistence (such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering), prehistoric and historic cultural resources (such as sacred sites, religious sites, and archeological resources), and significant caves.		
<i>Riparian Areas/Wetlands</i>	Existing disposal tracts do not appear to meet the public's needs; therefore, it is unlikely that riparian/wetland areas would either be disposed of or acquired.	Riparian areas and wetlands are identified as a high priority for retention and acquisition. This management emphasis ensures that existing riparian and wetland areas would generally be retained in public ownership. In the rare instance where lands with riparian/wetland values are proposed to be exchanged for lands with even higher resource values, the impacts to the affected riparian or wetland area should always be neutral or positive and would be evaluated during site-specific proposal analysis.		
<i>Soils</i>	There is a potential for loss of soil structure and productivity if a land tenure adjustment results in subsequent development that produces surface disturbance. It is anticipated that such impacts would be addressed on a site-specific basis and that land tenure adjustments would not be considered where there is a potential for significant impacts, unless such impacts could be mitigated to the satisfaction of the authorized officer in accordance with known statutory environmental thresholds.			

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Tribal Rights/ Trust Resources</i>	BLM policy and Presidential direction (Memorandum of April 29, 1994 and Order No. 3175 of November 8, 1993) provide direction for consultation and coordination with Native American tribes to ensure that all anticipated effects on Indian trust resources and tribal rights are addressed in the planning, decision, and operational documents for each proposed project, including lands actions. This ensures that tribal interests are considered and adverse impacts to those interests are mitigated to the greatest extent possible.	Same as Alternative 1. In addition, the proposed amendments state that lands specifically identified by the Shoshone-Bannock and/or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes as having special importance related to treaty and/or traditional use values would be a high priority for retention or acquisition (see Appendix 1). This management action assures that public lands of known importance to the Tribes would be retained in public ownership, and increases the likelihood that the BLM would seek to acquire lands of importance to the Tribes. Over time, proposed management would likely increase the acreage of public lands with trust resource values.		
<i>Water Quality - Drinking and Ground</i>	There is a potential for impacts to surface vegetation and water quality if a land tenure adjustment results in subsequent development that produces surface disturbance. It is anticipated that such impacts would be addressed on a site-specific basis and that land tenure adjustments would not be considered where there is a potential for significant impacts, unless such impacts could be mitigated to the satisfaction of the authorized officer in accordance with known statutory environmental thresholds.			
	Requiring recharge sites to be authorized through the permitting process would reduce the number of future sites that could be considered and managed to benefit the public water supply.	Managing the aquifer recharge program through transfer of environmentally acceptable sites to the State of Idaho would centralize management of those sites and enable sites to be approved on a State-wide basis, with accompanying ecosystem-level environmental analysis. This should result in improved selection of sites and allow for comparative monitoring of water quality impacts. Developing these sites would benefit the people of Idaho by increasing and stabilizing the quality and supply of ground water for agricultural and domestic use.		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i></p>	<p>Neither existing management nor the proposed amendment alternatives would adversely affect the eligibility of the nine identified Wild and Scenic River segments managed by the Shoshone Field Office area. [Note: These nine segments occur within the boundaries of the planning area for the Draft Bennett Hills RMP. The remainder of the Shoshone Field Office has not been inventoried to determine the eligibility of stream segments. Future efforts to determine additional eligible streams within the entire Field Office and to determine suitability on all eligible stream segments will occur when a Shoshone Field Office RMP is initiated. Until the suitability study is completed, all of these eligible WSR are being managed to (a) protect the streams' free-flowing character, (b) maintain the level of development that resulted in the segments' tentative classifications as "wild," "scenic," or "recreational"; and (c) protect the outstandingly remarkable values which qualified the stream segments as eligible for further study.]</p>			
	<p>Existing policies preclude disposal of eligible WSRs or segments. However, existing management direction would also limit the BLM's ability to acquire non-public lands adjacent to or within a WSR in order to improve management efficiency or acquire high resource values. Tracts that are currently identified for potential disposal may not necessarily interest land owners who would be willing to participate in a land exchange.</p>		<p>Eligible Wild and Scenic River segments are identified as a high priority for retention, acquisition, and acquisition of inholdings. If the BLM is able to acquire inholdings, this would likely improve management efficiency and resource values of the affected river segments.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Wilderness Study Areas</i>	<p>Existing policies preclude disposal of public lands within any Wilderness Study Area. However, existing management direction would also limit the BLM’s ability to acquire non-public lands adjacent to or within WSAs in order to improve management efficiency or acquire high resource values. Tracts that are currently identified for potential disposal may not necessarily interest land owners who would be willing to participate in a land exchange.</p>		<p>The proposed amendments place all existing WSAs in lands management Zone 1; these lands would be retained in public ownership and would not be available for disposal. The proposed amendments would not impair the 14 WSAs (totaling 159,506 acres) that occur in the planning area, since the proposed actions complement guidance contained in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (USDI - BLM, 1995). The proposed lands actions emphasize acquisition of inholdings within existing WSAs; over time this management should improve the quality of resources within the affected WSAs by improving management efficiency and through acquisition of wilderness-related land values.</p>	

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Wildlife</i>	All land tenure actions are subject to a site-specific NEPA analysis and appropriate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on issues related to Federally listed species. These provisions ensure that adverse impacts to listed species will be avoided.			
	<p><i>Isolated Wildlife Tract Program:</i> The Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would continue within the guidelines and direction of the existing planning decisions. The management specified in the Isolated Wildlife Tracts Habitat Management Plan (USDI-BLM 1978) would maintain the habitat values for pheasants, gray partridge, valley quail, sage grouse, and other game and nongame animals which inhabit the tracts.</p>	<p><i>Isolated Wildlife Tract Program:</i> The Idaho Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would maintain or increase the number of public land parcels intermingled with agricultural areas. This would increase both the number of acres and quality of escape, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitat available for raptors, passerine birds (perching birds and songbirds), and upland game birds.</p>	<p><i>Isolated Wildlife Tract Program:</i> The number of parcels managed under the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would likely decrease as existing tracts are exchanged for equal or higher wildlife values and in order to consolidate fragmented wildlife habitats. Although small parcels of wildlife habitat would be transferred out of public ownership, the land tenure adjustments would result in a net increase in suitable habitat for some wildlife species and a slight reduction in both wildlife habitat diversity (loss of habitat adjacent to agricultural land) and habitat fragmentation across the planning area. The Isolated Wildlife Tract Program would probably not be eliminated since some parcels would likely be retained due to their specific high resource values.</p>	<p><i>Isolated Wildlife Tract Program:</i> As disposal of the isolated wildlife tracts occurs (most probably into private ownership with subsequent agricultural or commercial development), it is likely there would be less thermal, escape, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitat for pheasants, gray partridge, valley quail, sage grouse, raptors, some passerine birds (perching birds and songbirds), and other game and nongame animals which utilize these isolated parcels. There would be a substantial net decrease in pheasant habitat on public land in the planning area. The expected reduction in upland hunter days and wildlife viewing days would depend on the number of isolated tracts leaving public ownership, their locations, and the type and quality of wildlife habitat on the disposed of tracts.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Wildlife</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Land Exchanges:</i> The existing disposal tracts do not appear to meet the public’s needs, so it is unlikely that land tenure adjustments to connect isolated or fragmented habitat would occur. Wildlife which benefit from connected tracts or corridors of similar habitats would continue to be adversely affected by the broken land ownership pattern in some portions of the planning area.</p>	<p><i>Land Exchanges:</i> The emphases on acquiring additional high resource value lands, consolidating lands, and reconnecting habitats in priority watersheds would benefit wildlife species which utilize connected tracts or corridors of similar habitats.</p>		<p><i>Land Exchanges:</i> This alternative would not seek to address the wildlife fragmentation issue by acquiring high resource value lands, although some consolidation of land ownership may occur. Wildlife which benefit from connected tracts or corridors of similar habitats would continue to be adversely affected by the broken land ownership pattern in some portions of the planning area, although potentially to a lesser extent than under Alternative 1.</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Wildlife</i> (continued)</p>	<p><i>Land Exchanges (continued):</i> The current inability to exchange small and/or unmanageable tracts for parcels that would help to consolidate public holdings or acquire high value resources represents lost opportunities for effective wildlife habitat management.</p>	<p><i>Land Exchanges (continued):</i> A site-specific analysis conducted for each exchange or disposal proposal would describe the impacts to the affected wildlife species from the planned action. Impacts to special status species would be disclosed and, if necessary, mitigated at that time. Disposal of isolated parcels, especially in Zone 4, is not likely to adversely affect any sensitive species.</p> <p>Private or State land received in exchange for public land may have value as wildlife habitat. However, the acquired land may not have the same value or support the same wildlife species as the disposed of public land. The impacts to the affected wildlife would depend on the species' habitat needs. By referring to the table "General Habitats of BLM Sensitive Bird Species" (see page 21) and weighing the amount and quality of each type of habitat in an exchange or disposal, the relative effect on a BLM Sensitive species may be determined. For instance, exchanging equal amounts of good quality grassland habitat (disposed) for sagebrush habitat (acquired) would have a relative effect of benefitting a greater number of sensitive species. The process would lead to the conclusion that it would be most beneficial to sensitive wildlife for the Shoshone Field Office to concentrate on acquiring sagebrush and riparian habitats.</p> <p>Over time, it is expected that land exchange or disposal actions would alter the amount of suitable habitat available for both resident and neotropical migrant bird species. Shoshone Field Office records show that 95 bird species use the combined sagebrush and grass dominated plant communities in the planning area. The sagebrush and grass communities are used by 76 bird species which breed in the area; 9 make use of grass communities, 53 use sage communities, and 14 make use of a mixture of sage and grass communities. The exchange of a sage-dominated plant community for a grass community would increase the amount of suitable public land habitat for 17 bird species, while acquiring land with sagebrush in exchange for a parcel with a herbaceous plant community would increase the amount of suitable habitat for 62 bird species. Of the 192 neotropical bird species which breed in the area, eight bird species would benefit from the acquisition of grassland habitat and 44 bird species would benefit from the acquisition of sagebrush habitat. One neotropical migrant bird species with wintering populations in the planning area would benefit by the acquisition of grassland habitat, while 20 neotropical migrant species with wintering populations in the planning area would benefit by acquiring sagebrush habitat.</p>		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Wildlife (continued)		<p><i>Land Exchanges (continued):</i> Shoshone Field Office records show that 95 bird species use the combined sagebrush and agriculture dominated plant communities in the planning area. Conversion of a sage-dominated community to an agricultural plant community would increase the habitat for 17 bird species and reduce the amount of habitat for 33 bird species. Of the 192 neotropical bird species which breed in the area, 12 bird species would benefit from an increase in the agricultural plant communities and 24 bird species would experience a reduction in the amount of suitable habitat as a result of the vegetation conversion.</p> <p>Increased establishment of agricultural plant communities would benefit three neotropical migrant bird species with wintering populations in the planning area, while six neotropical migrant species with wintering populations in the planning area would be adversely effected by the loss of sagebrush habitat.</p> <p>Acquisition of riparian habitats and the expected improvements in riparian habitat conditions would be beneficial to bird species which make seasonal or yearlong use of riparian plant communities. The bird species most directly affected would be the 60 species whose life cycle needs are provided by riparian and other closely allied habitats.</p> <p>Exchanging lands in Zone 4 for parcels in the other zones may result in a long term loss of habitat for some introduced species (such as ring-necked pheasant and gray partridge), while consolidating habitat for some sensitive species (such as sage grouse and the sage sparrow). This type of trade-off could also result in a decrease in hunting opportunities for the general public near agricultural lands.</p>		

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Cumulative Impacts	<p>The analysis of cumulative impacts includes the consideration of past, present and reasonably foreseeable impacts that could result from a specific action or set of actions. The Magic Valley is dependent on public lands for some social and economic needs. Public lands support programs like agricultural, minerals development, recreation, livestock grazing, and transportation. The Magic Valley is a destination for many people, not only from large metropolitan areas like Boise, but also for out-of-state tourists bound for destinations like Sun Valley and the Craters of the Moon National Monument. It could be reasonably foreseen that as the area continues to grow in population, recreation and tourism will also continue to grow throughout this portion of Idaho.</p>			
	<p><i>Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Tribal Rights/Traditional Uses:</i> Private land development, especially along riparian areas, near caves, and in other areas with high potential for cultural resource sites, paleontological sites, and traditional use areas may lead to a cumulative loss of these values and a loss of opportunity to protect and study these areas as part of the overall history and pre-history of south-central Idaho. These losses on private lands make protection and acquisition of cultural resources, paleontological sites, and traditional use areas on Federal lands even more vital. Existing land tenure management would limit the BLM's ability to acquire and manage these high value resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Tribal Rights/Traditional Uses:</i> Proposed management would increase the BLM's ability to acquire and manage these resources through private or State land exchanges. Increased emphasis on retaining and managing these resource values on public lands would help offset losses of the resource values from development on private and State lands.</p> <p><i>Economic and Social Impacts:</i> Making BLM management more efficient through amended land tenure adjustment actions and new ACEC designations should improve the public lands opportunities for residents and visitors to the Magic Valley area. Amending the land use plans would provide the ability to contribute to present and future development opportunities, economic growth opportunities, and infrastructure development when requested by the State, county or local officials, or private individuals.</p> <p>Potential exists to add to the resource values of vegetative communities and ecosystem health through interagency implementation of watershed based land tenure management actions. Loss of specific resource values should be offset with equal or better resource values acquired in site-specific actions, especially when using the extensive list of criteria in Appendix 1. Implementation of the pro-active criteria in Appendix 1 would provide more resource emphasis beyond the present land use plans and would not take place until such time as a land tenure action is proposed and approved in a site-specific action. The BLM and potential proponents would be required to show how a specific land tenure action would be beneficial to the public and any affected resources.</p>		[continued]

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Cumulative Impacts (continued)</p>	<p><i>Economic and Social Impacts:</i> Continuation of existing management is expected to affect the majority of development activities that are currently authorized through land use permits. As permits come up for renewal, many will be terminated because they are not in compliance with current policy for authorization through land use permits. The short term economic impacts to permit holders would include costs to remove the use and rehabilitate the affected area.</p> <p>Existing management is not expected to keep up with local governments' needs for public lands to achieve community growth and improved infrastructure. The BLM's limited inability to utilize land tenure adjustments to acquire high resource value lands and public access may, over time, also affect the rate at which recreation and tourism can grow in the planning area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p><i>Forest Resources:</i> Since coniferous forest lands are generally steep and not desirable for most forms of development, there is a high probability that those lands in the timber base would remain in public ownership. Although extensive logging operations occurred nearly a century ago, the effects of that logging (soil loss, change in overstory, change in species composition) have generally healed to the extent that is possible in such a time period and without significant human intervention. Current management is to increase forest health through thinning over-crowded stands and removing diseased trees. Maintaining forest stands in public ownership will allow long term management to improve forest health in those stands. In the unlikely event that such stands leave the public domain, they could be harvested; this harvest could result in short term economic benefit to the owner and community, but a moderate to long term decrease in ecosystem and wildlife habitat stability.</p> <p>Because coniferous forests in the planning area are generally not desirable to develop (steep slopes), private and State forested lands may be offered to the BLM in exchange for parcels that can be developed. Acquisition of forested habitat adjacent to National Forest lands would increase the acreage of contiguous forested habitat in public ownership.</p> <p><i>Livestock Grazing/Rangeland Resources:</i> The current management goal for public rangelands is to achieve "rangeland health" - i.e., a healthy and diverse ecosystem capable of supporting multiple use. Where transfer to private ownership occurs, the transferred lands may not be managed for rangeland health. However, most transfers to private ownership are expected to occur in Zone 4, which would have only a minor effect on BLM management of rangelands (including the management of sagebrush ecosystems for sensitive species) because of the disjunct nature of lands in that zone. The consolidation of lands in Zones 2 and 3 (especially under Alternatives 2 and 3, which emphasize large land exchanges) would likely <i>increase</i> management efficiency in those areas, leading to a further improvement in rangeland health. In all cases where cheatgrass (or another undesirable species) has become established, it is anticipated that a significant effort in terms of funds, resources, and manpower would be required to restore a native ecosystem. Restoration is more likely under Alternatives 2 and 3, which seek to consolidate ownership, improve management efficiency, and reconnect habitat in priority watersheds, than under Alternative 4, which emphasizes disposal to private landowners.</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p>Cumulative Impacts (continued)</p>	<p><i>Forest Resources/Rangeland Resources:</i> Existing management would limit the BLM’s ability to consolidate and improve management of forest and rangeland habitats on a watershed basis and in cooperation with other land management agencies.</p> <p><i>Recreation:</i> Existing management would limit the BLM’s ability to manage recreation resources and public access on a watershed basis and in cooperation with other land management agencies. The availability of recreation opportunities may not meet the demand for those opportunities.</p> <p>[continued]</p>	<p><i>Recreation:</i> Some aspects of Alternatives 2 and 3 (land consolidation and acquisition) could reasonably be expected to contribute to increased recreation opportunities. Improved recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands should reduce some of the demand to use private, State, and National Forest lands for recreational purposes. Seeking to acquire public access to large blocks of public land would benefit recreational uses, while focusing impacts on a few small areas that can be more easily managed. The expected increase in recreation use and opportunities could result in damage to resources managed by the BLM unless carefully planned and controlled. For example, increased access and use of vehicles could cause loss of desired vegetation, an increase in noxious weeds, loss of top soil, an increase in human-caused fires, and disturbance of wildlife during critical periods. The risk of these adverse impacts would be reduced as the BLM develops new access in cooperation with the Tribes and State and local governments, and participates in interagency implementation of other watershed management actions.</p>	<p>[continued]</p>	<p><i>Recreation:</i> Alternative 4 places limited emphasis on acquisition of public access and lands with high value resources, such as recreation opportunities. Other land tenure adjustment priorities would limit the BLM’s ability to increase recreation resources and public access. The availability of recreation opportunities may not meet the demand for those opportunities.</p> <p>[continued]</p>

Identified Issue - Land Tenure <i>Affected Resource/Program</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Cumulative Impacts (continued)	<i>Wildlife:</i> Existing management would limit the BLM's ability to consolidate and improve management of wildlife habitats on a watershed basis and in cooperation with other agencies (e.g., USFS, IDFG, USFWS) and landowners .	<i>Wildlife:</i> Addressing habitat fragmentation by acquiring high resource value lands and consolidating ownership would augment other agencies' (e.g., USFS, IDFG, USFWS) efforts to address the habitat fragmentation issue in priority watersheds. Declines in population levels of some species have resulted in their being managed as special status species by the BLM (including federally listed Threatened and Endangered species). Such population declines are often a direct result of competing land uses and habitat fragmentation. By acquiring and/or consolidating lands with high habitat value for a sensitive species, the likelihood of further population declines would be reduced. More intensive management, as in the proposed ACECs, would likely enhance habitat values, also reducing the potential for further population declines. In combination these actions may assist in preventing some species from becoming Federally listed.		<i>Wildlife:</i> Alternative 4 places little emphasis on acquiring high resource value lands to address habitat fragmentation or the habitat needs of special status species. Although existing habitat for special status species would be retained in public ownership, other land tenure adjustment priorities would limit the BLM's ability to consolidate and improve management of wildlife habitats on a watershed basis and in cooperation with other agencies and landowners.
Irreversible or Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources	<p>Any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources from land tenure adjustments or other lands actions would be disclosed when each project proposal is analyzed. Current or proposed management direction does not, in and of itself, result in an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. Every alternative has the potential for an irretrievable commitment of resources through transfer of public lands out of public ownership. Land tenure adjustments are usually irreversible, unless lands previously transferred from public ownership are re-acquired into public ownership.</p> <p><i>Tribal Rights/Trust Resources:</i> Lands going out of Federal ownership are no longer public resources. Even though the BLM would acquire other lands in exchange for the disposal parcels, the resources and traditional use values/treaty values may not be the same.</p>			
			<i>Wildlife:</i> Disposal of Isolated Wildlife Tracts and public lands lying adjacent to or included within the boundaries of private farming operations would result in the permanent loss of wildlife habitat values if the disposed-of lands are converted to intensive agricultural or commercial uses. The impacts would include permanent loss of native upland plant communities and irrigated wildlife habitat managed for the benefit of raptors, upland game birds, some passerine birds, and other upland wildlife species.	

Table 6 - Environmental Impacts of Proposed ACEC Designations

<p>Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i></p>	<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>Alternative 2</p>	<p>Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)</p>	<p>Alternative 4</p>
<p><i>Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives which Include a Proposed ACEC Designation</i></p>	<p><i>Tribal Rights/Trust Resources and Native American Religious Concerns/Traditional Uses:</i> Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated ACECs) would have no effect on Tribal rights and trust resources or Native American religious concerns and traditional uses.</p> <p><i>Wilderness Study Areas:</i> Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated ACECs) would have no effect on any of the 14 WSAs in the planning area.</p> <p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers:</i> Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated ACECs) would have no affect on the nine Wild and Scenic River segments identified as eligible for a suitability study.</p>	<p><i>Existing ACECs:</i> The proposed ACEC designations would have no effect on the existing, designated ACECs.</p> <p><i>Soils/Vegetation/Water Quality:</i> The proposed ACEC designations and management actions (e.g., OHV limitations, minerals restrictions) may reduce the likelihood of surface disturbance in localized areas within the ACECs. Any improvements in soils, vegetation, and water quality are expected to be minor.</p> <p><i>Tribal Rights/Trust Resources and Native American Religious Concerns/Traditional Uses:</i> None of the proposed ACEC designations or management actions would cause adverse impacts to Native American traditional uses/values or resources under tribal rights. The proposed management actions to protect ACEC values (visual resource management and off-highway vehicle use designations, minerals restrictions, riparian habitat management, etc.) would protect traditional uses/values and trust resources by maintaining scenic resources, reducing the extent of surface disturbance, and maintaining or improving some riparian areas and fish and wildlife resources. Proposed OHV designations may restrict some access to traditional use areas or religious sites, but these effects are mitigated through exceptions for off-road (cross-country) travel.</p> <p><i>Wilderness Study Areas:</i> The proposed ACEC designations and management actions would not impair the 14 WSAs (totaling 159,506 acres) that occur in the planning area. The proposed actions complement guidance contained in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (USDI - BLM, 1995). Where multiple designations would occur (portions or all of a proposed ACEC overlap a designated WSA and/or eligible Wild and Scenic River) the most stringent management guidance would apply.</p> <p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers:</i> None of the proposed ACEC designations would negatively affect the eligibility of the nine identified segments to be included in a future suitability study for potential designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers.</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Resource/Program Impacts by Alternative, for Each Proposed ACEC				
<i>Bennett Hills ACEC</i>	<p>The nominated ACEC area primarily encompasses lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office, but also includes approximately 1,220 acres managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM (along the western edge of King Hill Creek). The following analyses would apply to the entire nominated ACEC area.</p> <p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> General protection and management of cultural resources would continue in accordance with relevant law, regulation, and policy. Cultural resources would be fully protected, except for situations where unauthorized actions may occur (e.g., vandalism or unauthorized excavation and collection).</p>			
	<p>The following impacts would occur under existing management (no ACEC designation of the nominated area).</p> <p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> Specific management actions designed to pro-actively manage cultural resources in the nominated ACEC area would not necessarily not be implemented. However, an ACEC designation is not required to initiate a Cultural Resource Management Plan or other protective management actions, if additional management direction is deemed necessary to manage and protect the cultural resources in the nominated area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p>The following impacts would occur as a result of the proposed ACEC designation and management.</p> <p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> The proposed Bennett Hills ACEC designation and management actions would highlight protective management of the cultural resources occurring within the ACEC. OHV limitations would reduce surface disturbance and the risk of damage to cultural resources from cross-country vehicle travel. OHV limitations would also reduce public access that may result in unauthorized collection or vandalism. (Note: OHV use in the ACEC area is light; these OHV limitations would only slightly reduce the risk of resource damage.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Bennett Hills ACEC</i> <i>(continued)</i>	<p><i>Minerals Resources:</i> Continuation of existing management would have no effect on minerals resources, exploration, or development. Site-specific cultural clearances would continue to be required prior to approval of minerals actions; this would ensure that proposed mineral activities in the nominated ACEC area do not adversely affect cultural resources.</p> <p><i>Off-highway Vehicle Use:</i> Continuation of existing management would have no effect on OHV use. Current OHV use in the Bennett Hills area is light; if motorized vehicle use increases to the point where cultural resources are being affected, the BLM has authority to restrict OHV use in order to protect cultural or other resource values (43 CFR 8341.2).</p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources (continued):</i> Completing a Cultural Resources Management Plan would identify proactive management for cultural sites throughout the ACEC, rather than just the project-oriented site protection that occurs under current management. Mineral material sales restrictions would eliminate the potential for surface disturbance from this activity on most of the ACEC's acres.</p> <p>Although the intent of the ACEC designation would be to protect cultural values, there is some risk that highlighting those values would increase public knowledge of the resources' locations and thereby increase the potential for vandalism or unauthorized excavation and collection.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Bennett Hills ACEC</i> <i>(continued)</i>		<p><i>Minerals Resources:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Mineral material site development could still be allowed adjacent to the three specified routes, but approval of the actions would require site-specific NEPA and cultural resource inventory, clearances, and mitigation. These sites may not meet all future demands for easily accessible mineral materials that are used to maintain existing public roads. In addition, county road districts would have to travel greater distances to haul gravel to remote country roads from sites along one of the main travel routes.</p> <p>[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Bennett Hills ACEC</i> <i>(continued)</i>		<p><i>Minerals Resources (continued):</i> At present, only 7 of the 17 existing community pits and common use areas are located along State Highways 75 and 46 and the Bliss-Hill City Road. There is an apparent need for mineral material and free use sites in other parts of the proposed ACEC area. It is unlikely that the BLM could fully satisfy the public's future demand for saleable minerals if new community pits and common use areas are limited to sites along these three routes.</p> <p><i>OHV Use:</i> The proposed OHV limitations would have negligible impacts to OHV users, since minimal use presently occurs in the affected area. Exceptions for off-road travel are granted to Tribal members and may be granted to others who require periodic cross-country motorized access within the ACEC.</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Camas Creek ACEC/RNA</i>	<p>Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated ACEC area) would have no effect on the lands program, livestock grazing program, minerals resources, or off-highway vehicle use.</p> <p><i>Lands:</i> Under existing management the BLM can pursue various lands actions to benefit riparian habitat along Camas Creek, such as pursuing conservation easements or seeking to acquire lands from willing sellers. An ACEC designation is not required to initiate or implement these lands actions. If these actions were implemented, the benefits would be as described in Alternative 2, paragraph 1.</p> <p><i>Livestock Grazing:</i> The BLM has already identified the need for a wing fence at the sheep bridge to manage livestock impacts. This action can be implemented without an ACEC designation. Under current management and in normal water years, there is adequate livestock water in the allotment</p>	<p><i>Lands Program:</i> Acquiring lands from willing sellers would increase the total contiguous length of riparian habitat managed by the BLM. This would increase the probability of achieving the potential natural community along more of the stream. Potential off-site effects of a more extensive properly functioning riparian zone may include improved water quality, possibly increased survival of nesting migratory birds, and increased dispersal of riparian vegetation (as a result of an increased number of flowering plants). Pursuing conservation easements would provide a buffer from potential development of adjacent private lands.</p> <p>Prohibiting new land use authorizations would have no impact as this is a small area and actions could be located elsewhere. In addition, there is little current or foreseen use in the area.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1. In addition, the proposed changes in land tenure adjustment priorities (see Appendix 1) would increase the emphasize on retaining and acquiring riparian habitats such as those found in the Camas Creek area. This would increase the probability that the BLM would pursue conservation easements and acquisition of lands from willing sellers.</p>	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Camas Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><i>Livestock Grazing</i> (continued): Thus, sufficient livestock water should be available after the wing fence is constructed.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> Existing management would not limit the development of mineral materials in the nominated ACEC area. However, the geographic setting makes it unlikely that minerals development would occur in the nominated area. In the event that mineral materials from the general vicinity are needed to satisfy public demand, this need could likely be satisfied by disposal from nearby public lands.</p> <p><i>Noxious Weeds:</i> The current noxious weed inventory and treatment effort would not be intensified in the ACEC area under this alternative. Current weed control activities consist of using ground-spraying equipment to chemically treat infestations of diffuse knapweed associated with the livestock trail leading to and from the Macon Sheep Bridge crossing.</p>	<p><i>Livestock Grazing:</i> Closing the proposed ACEC to livestock grazing would have minimal effect, since little to no use is presently occurring in the ACEC area. No AUMs would be lost and no reductions would occur on the affected allotment (Macon Flat) as a result of the designation. Access to the Sheep Bridge for sheep trailing would be provided through wing fences. Minimal impacts to livestock operators may occur in the late spring/early summer if their stock are present elsewhere in the allotment, since the livestock would no longer have access to this portion of the creek for water.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Closing the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits would prevent the disposal of saleable minerals from the ACEC, but would not have a significant impact on the BLM's ability to satisfy the</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Camas Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><i>Noxious Weeds</i> (continued): Small, isolated infestations of leafy spurge have been chemically treated with backpack spray equipment. Under existing funding and staffing levels, the diffuse knapweed and leafy spurge in the nominated ACEC area would likely be contained, but not eradicated.</p> <p><i>Recreation</i>: Not designating the nominated ACEC would have no impact on existing recreation use. Small numbers of people would continue to hunt and fish in the ACEC area. The existing access points and primitive parking area are likely to stay in the same condition as at present.</p> <p><i>Riparian Areas</i>: The nominated ACEC area is expected to remain a functioning riparian zone under existing management. The sheer canyon walls form a natural barrier to many kinds of disturbance that may otherwise occur in a riparian area (e.g., livestock grazing), and existing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p><i>Minerals</i> (continued): Any application for the disposal of mineral materials could likely be satisfied by disposal from nearby public lands.</p> <p><i>Noxious Weeds</i>: Emphasis on eliminating non-native invasive plant species would help ensure that existing weed populations are controlled and new infestations are treated to the extent possible. It is unlikely that weed populations could ever be completely eradicated, since new (e.g., windborne) sources of infestation are likely to be introduced over time.</p> <p><i>OHV Use</i>: The proposed OHV limitations would have negligible impacts to OHV users, since minimal use presently occurs in the affected area. Temporary exceptions for off-road travel would be granted to Tribal members and may be granted to others who require periodic cross-country motorized access within the ACEC.</p> <p><i>Recreation</i>: The proposed facilities and interpretive signs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Camas Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>management tools (e.g., implementing rangeland standards and guidelines) are sufficient to maintain and improve riparian conditions. If a wing fence is constructed at the Sheep Bridge to manage livestock impacts, the effects to the riparian zone would be as described in Alternative 2.</p> <p><i>Visual Resources:</i> Not designating the nominated ACEC would have no impact on the area's visual resources. The steep canyon walls limit access for development activities and livestock grazing; there is very little risk these activities would occur and affect visual quality. People can access the nominated ACEC area by a trail, but current management is sufficient to protect the trail and ACEC area from damage that could result from visitor use. An ACEC designation is not needed to educate the public about the fragile nature of the riparian resources, make trail improvements, or implement other actions that would protect scenic values.</p>	<p><i>Recreation</i> (continued): might attract additional users besides hunters and anglers. However, the area is unlikely to experience dramatic increases in recreation use due to the proximity of more popular facilities at Magic Reservoir.</p> <p><i>Riparian Areas:</i> Excluding livestock from the ACEC through the wing fence construction to Sheep Bridge would increase the rate at which native willows and sedges are established and spread within the wetted riparian zone. This improvement of riparian vegetation communities would accelerate the repair of livestock-related streambank damage and improve floodplain function and stability.</p> <p><i>Visual Resources:</i> A VRM Class II designation would ensure that activities are designed so as to retain the ACEC's scenic values. However, construction of a visitor station/kiosk may slightly increase the risk of visual resource degradation in a small portion of the ACEC by increasing visitor use of the</p>		

<p>Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i></p>	<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>Alternative 2</p>	<p>Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)</p>	<p>Alternative 4</p>
<p><i>Coyote Hills ACEC</i></p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> General protection and management of cultural resources would continue in accordance with relevant law, regulation, and policy. Cultural resources would be fully protected, except for situations where unauthorized actions may occur (e.g., vandalism or unauthorized excavation and collection).</p>			
	<p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> Specific management actions designed to pro-actively manage cultural resources in the nominated ACEC area would not necessarily be implemented. However, an ACEC designation is not required to initiate a Cultural Resource Management Plan or other protective management actions, if additional management direction is deemed necessary to manage and protect the cultural resources in the nominated area.</p> <p><i>Minerals Resources:</i> Continuation of existing management would have no effect on minerals resources, exploration, or development. Site-specific cultural clearances would continue to be required prior to approval of minerals actions; this would ensure that proposed mineral activities in the nominated ACEC area do not adversely affect cultural resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> Completing a Cultural Resources Management Plan would identify proactive management for cultural sites throughout the ACEC, rather than just the project-oriented site protection that occurs under current management. Mineral material sales restrictions would eliminate the potential for surface disturbance from this activity on most of the ACEC's acres. OHV limitations would reduce surface disturbance and the risk of damage to cultural resources from cross-country vehicle travel. OHV limitations would also reduce public access that may result in unauthorized collection or vandalism. (Note: OHV use in the ACEC area is light; these OHV limitations would only slightly reduce the risk of resource damage.) Although the intent of the ACEC designation would be to protect cultural values, there is some risk that highlighting those values would increase public knowledge of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Coyote Hills ACEC</i> <i>(continued)</i>	<p><i>Off-highway Vehicle Use:</i> Continuation of existing management would have no effect on OHV use. Current OHV use in the nominated ACEC area is light; if motorized vehicle use increases to the point where cultural resources are being affected, the BLM has authority to restrict OHV use in order to protect cultural and other resource values (43 CFR 8341.2).</p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources (continued):</i> resources' locations and thereby increase the potential for unauthorized excavation and vandalism.</p> <p><i>Mineral Resources:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Restricting new mineral material sales and free use permit sites to public lands adjacent to the Bliss-Hill City Road and State Highway 46 would limit the BLM's ability to issue free use permits for materials needed to maintain public roads. The BLM may not be able to satisfy Gooding County's future needs for mineral materials used in road maintenance. The proposed restrictions may also affect the BLM's ability to satisfy the public's future demands for community pit sites/common use areas. (Note: Approval of any new mineral material site development within the ACEC would require site-specific NEPA and cultural resource inventory, clearances, and mitigation.) [continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Coyote Hills ACEC</i> <i>(continued)</i>		<i>OHV Use:</i> The proposed OHV limitations would have negligible impacts to OHV users, since minimal use presently occurs in the affected area. Exceptions for off-road travel would be granted to Tribal members and may be granted to others who require periodic cross-country motorized access within the ACEC.		
<i>Dry Creek ACEC/RNA</i>	Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated Dry Creek ACEC) would have no effect on the lands program, livestock grazing program, minerals resources, off-highway vehicle use, visual resources, or the Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination for Dry Creek. <div style="text-align: right;">[continued]</div>	<i>Lands:</i> The restriction on new land use authorizations would have minimal or no effect since the lands in the proposed ACEC/RNA are remote and already restricted from most forms of development because of WSA and/or eligible WSR status. If lands or realty actions are proposed in the ACEC, they could be re-routed or otherwise addressed during the pre-application process. <div style="text-align: right;">[continued]</div>	Same as Alternative 1.	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Dry Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><i>Noxious Weeds:</i> No chemical weed control activities have occurred recently in the nominated ACEC area. Small, isolated infestations of either diffuse knapweed or rush skeletonweed may be occurring in the area from infestations located to the west of Dry Creek. The nominated ACEC area would be inventoried for noxious weeds when a weed inventory effort is conducted in the adjacent Bennett Hills. Any weed infestations discovered during the inventory may be spot-treated with herbicides. Because of the nominated area's Wilderness Study Area and eligible Wild and Scenic River status, treatment of weed infestations would be a high priority. Weed populations would be contained, although it is unlikely that weed populations could ever be completely eradicated, since new sources of infestation could be introduced over time. All chemical treatments would be in conformance with the guidelines contained in the environmental assessment for Noxious Weed Control in Wilderness Study Areas (ID-050-91040)[continued]</p>	<p><i>Livestock Grazing:</i> Closing the proposed ACEC/RNA to livestock grazing would have no effect, since little to no use is presently occurring in the ACEC area. No AUMs would be lost and no reductions would occur on the affected allotment (Black Canyon) as a result of the designation.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Closing the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits would prevent the disposal of saleable minerals from the ACEC, but would not have a significant impact on the BLM's ability to satisfy the public demand for saleable minerals. Any application for the disposal of mineral material could likely be satisfied by disposal from nearby public lands. The closure would be no real change from existing management, since the proposed ACEC area lies within a WSA where surface-disturbing activities are restricted.</p> <p>[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Dry Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><i>Riparian:</i> The riparian area would remain in a near pristine, fully functional condition as a result of the nominated area’s remoteness and WSA status. The riparian values would continue to be protected in order to maintain the creek’s eligibility for further study as a Wild and Scenic River.</p> <p><i>Visual Resources:</i> Existing scenic values would be maintained under current management. Because of the nominated area’s status as a designated Wilderness Study Area, the scenic values are already managed under guidelines to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. The area must also be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic values which qualified the creek as eligible for a Wild and Scenic River suitability study.</p>	<p><i>Noxious Weeds:</i> Emphasis on preventing noxious weed invasion would help ensure that existing weed populations are controlled and new infestations are treated quickly and to the extent possible. It is unlikely that weed populations could ever be completely eradicated, since new (e.g., windborne) sources of infestation are likely to be introduced over time.</p> <p><i>OHV Use:</i> Designating the ACEC as “closed” to OHV use would have no effect on OHV use since the ACEC lies within a WSA (no cross country travel is allowed) and no routes cross the ACEC or occur on the perimeter.</p> <p><i>Riparian Areas:</i> The ACEC designation would ensure the creek’s riparian values are maintained over the long term. The ACEC designation would have little practical effect on future management of riparian resources, since these resources are already protected through a WSA designation and WSR eligibility (based, in part, on ecological outstandingly remarkable values).</p> <p>[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Dry Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i>		<p><i>Visual Resources:</i> Designating and managing the ACEC as VRM Class I would ensure that future management activities in the ACEC are designed in such a way as to preserve the ACEC's existing scenic qualities. This management change would have little practical impact, since the proposed ACEC lies within a WSA and is already managed to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans.</p> <p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers:</i> The ACEC/RNA designation would maintain the outstandingly remarkable values which resulted in the Dry Creek stream segment's eligibility determination.</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA</i></p>	<p>The nominated ACEC area includes approximately 1,660 acres managed by the Shoshone Field Office and 1,200 acres managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM. The following analysis would apply to the entire nominated area.</p> <p>Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated King Hill Creek ACEC) would have no effect on the lands program, livestock grazing program, minerals exploration or development, off-highway vehicle use, visual resources, or the Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination for King Hill Creek.</p> <p><i>Fisheries:</i> Native trout species would continue to be at risk should non-native species be introduced.</p> <p>[continued]</p>	<p>The proposed ACEC/RNA includes approximately 1,660 acres managed by the Shoshone Field Office and 1,200 acres managed by the Four Rivers Field Office. The following analysis would apply to the entire area proposed for designation.</p> <p><i>Fisheries:</i> The proposed ACEC/RNA designation and management would protect and improve redband trout habitat and help insure the genetic purity of the existing strain of redband trout. Protection of the genetic strain would help reduce the need to list redband trout as a threatened or endangered species.</p> <p><i>Lands:</i> The restriction on new land use authorizations would have minimal or no effect since the lands in the proposed ACEC/RNA are remote and already restricted from most forms of development because of WSA and/or eligible WSR status. If lands or realty actions are proposed in the ACEC, they could be re-routed or otherwise addressed during the pre-application process.</p> <p><i>Livestock Grazing:</i> Closing the proposed King Hill Creek ACEC to livestock grazing would have no effect, since little to no grazing use is presently occurring in the ACEC area. (The affected area is generally unsuitable for grazing due to steepness and poor accessibility for livestock.) No AUMs would be lost and no reductions would occur on the affected allotments (King Hill in the Shoshone Field Office and Hammet #1 in the Four Rivers Field Office) as a result of the designation.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Closing the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits would prevent the disposal of saleable minerals from the ACEC, but would not have a significant impact on the BLM's ability to satisfy the public demand for saleable minerals. Any application for the disposal of mineral material could likely be satisfied by disposal from nearby public lands. The closure would be no real change from existing management, since the majority of the proposed ACEC area lies within a WSA where surface-disturbing activities are restricted.</p> <p><i>Noxious Weeds:</i> Emphasis on eliminating non-native invasive plant species would help ensure that any existing weed populations are controlled and new infestations are treated to the extent possible. The more intense level of resource management would result in new weed infestations being detected early and appropriate control treatments applied as soon as effective control conditions allow. It is unlikely that weed populations could ever be completely eradicated, since new (e.g., windborne) sources of infestation are likely to be introduced over time.</p>		<p>[continued]</p>

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i>	<p><i>Noxious Weeds:</i> No chemical weed control activities have occurred recently in the nominated ACEC area. Small, isolated infestations of either diffuse knapweed or rush skeletonweed may be occurring in the area from infestations located to the west of King Hill Creek. The nominated ACEC area would be inventoried for noxious weeds when a weed inventory effort is conducted in the adjacent Bennett Hills. Any weed infestations discovered during the inventory may be spot-treated with herbicides. Because of the nominated area’s Wilderness Study Area and eligible Wild and Scenic River status, treatment of weed infestations would be a high priority. Weed populations would be contained, although it is unlikely that weed populations could ever be completely eradicated, since new sources of infestation could be introduced over time. All chemical treatments would be in conformance with the guidelines contained in the environmental assessment for Noxious Weed Control in Wilderness Study Areas (ID-050-91040) [continued]</p>		<p><i>Riparian:</i> The existing, near pristine riparian zone would be maintained. The increases in management intensity and priority, coupled with the exclusion of livestock grazing, would result in a slight improvement in both upslope watershed condition and riparian function. The improvements would be minor because there is presently only light grazing above the rim and no grazing in the riparian area.</p> <p><i>OHV Use:</i> Designating the ACEC as “closed” to OHV use would have no effect on OHV use since most of the ACEC lies within a WSA (no cross country travel is allowed), no routes cross the ACEC, the area is not readily accessible, and minimal OHV use occurs there at present.</p> <p><i>Visual Resources:</i> Designating and managing the ACEC as VRM Class I would ensure that future management activities in the ACEC are designed in such a way as to preserve the ACEC’s existing scenic qualities. This management change would have little practical impact, since the majority of the proposed ACEC lies within a WSA and is already managed to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. The BLM also presently manages the ACEC area to protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic values that resulted in the creek’s Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination.</p> <p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers:</i> The ACEC/RNA designation would maintain the outstandingly remarkable values which resulted in the King Hill Creek stream segment’s eligibility determination.</p>	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i>	<p><i>Riparian:</i> The riparian area would likely remain in a near pristine, fully functional condition as a result of the nominated area’s remoteness and WSA status. The riparian values would continue to be protected in order to maintain the creek’s eligibility for further study as a Wild and Scenic River.</p> <p><i>Visual Resources:</i> Existing scenic values would be maintained under current management. Because the majority of the nominated ACEC area lies within a designated Wilderness Study Area, most of the area is already managed under guidelines to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. The entire stream corridor must also be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic values which qualified the creek as eligible for a Wild and Scenic River suitability study.</p>			

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA</i>	<p>Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated McKinney Butte ACEC) would have no effect on the lands program, minerals exploration and development, or off-highway vehicle use. These activities would still be guided by the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act and the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM, 1999).</p> <p><i>Cave Resources:</i> Eleven caves in the nominated ACEC area are currently designated as significant. The existing level of cave-related management attention and emphasis would continue, resulting in a substantial risk of adverse impacts to the physical, scenic, and biological cave resources in the area. A partial list of some of the kinds of cave resource values which may be impacted includes geologic features, fragile mineral formations, bat hibernacula, and cave habitat quality.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>	<p><i>Cave Resources:</i> Two additional caves would become significant upon designation of the proposed McKinney Butte ACEC, resulting in a total of 13 known significant caves in the ACEC area. The significance designation would give all the caves in the ACEC area the added protection provided by the appropriate Federal cave regulations and BLM policy. The proposed ACEC designation would likely result in an increased level of management presence and management emphasis in the ACEC area. Some of the likely outcomes from this action would be earlier detection of any cave resource degradation, an increase in protection of both known and undiscovered cave resource values, and a greater likelihood that any proposed cave projects or management actions would be funded and implemented. Fewer adverse impacts to the physical, scenic, and biological cave resources would be expected than under existing management.</p> <p><i>Lands:</i> Prohibiting new land authorizations in the area could have some impact to utilities, but it is not foreseen to be very much based on the currently low use in the area.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Closing the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits would prevent the disposal of saleable minerals from the ACEC, but would not have a significant impact on the BLM's ability to satisfy the public demand for saleable minerals. Any application for the disposal of mineral material could likely be satisfied by disposal from nearby public lands.</p> <p><i>OHV Use:</i> The proposed OHV use limitations would eliminate cross country use in the ACEC area. This limitation would primarily affect recreationists (e.g., hunters) and ranchers who are used to cross-country access in the McKinney Butte area. (Note: Exceptions for off-road travel are granted to Tribal members and may be granted to others who require periodic cross-country motorized access within the ACEC.)</p> <p><i>Paleontological Resources:</i> If, in the future, additional paleontological resources are discovered within the ACEC's caves, these resources would be afforded greater protection through the ACEC designation. For example, restrictions could be placed on cave access to ensure the preservation of identified deposits. Paleontological resources may be excavated by qualified, permitted researchers, but the resources would remain Federal property and be available for research by qualified professionals.</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">[continued]</p>

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i>	<p><i>Paleontological Resources:</i> Caves in the nominated ACEC area have a high potential for additional paleontological resources. However, existing management does not emphasize management or protection of these resources. The risk of loss of significant known paleontological resources is low, however, since these resources must be considered during the NEPA analysis that would be completed prior to any proposed action.</p> <p><i>Wildlife:</i> Nine caves in the nominated area list biota as one of the values which contributed to their determination as significant caves. Monitoring and inventory of wildlife which utilize cave habitat in the area would continue at existing levels. This would result in the increased possibility that (a) some cave-adapted wildlife species may not be discovered, and (b) the habitat condition for some of the known wildlife species may be adversely impacted before the existing monitoring activities have detected a change in habitat condition.</p>		<p><i>Wildlife:</i> The increased management emphasis as a result of ACEC designation would reduce the potential level of human impact to many troglotic (completing entire life cycle in caves) animal species found in the caves. This would primarily benefit cave-adapted and cave-loving wildlife. An anticipated systematic and thorough inventory of cave life, followed by specific cave monitoring actions, would benefit and conserve the many types of animals which use the caves for part or all of their life cycle needs. The expected increases in the type, level, and frequency of cave habitat monitoring would result in earlier detection of habitat degradation and reduce the level of adverse impacts to the wildlife species utilizing the caves.</p>	

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Tee Maze ACEC/RNA</i></p>	<p>Continuation of existing management (i.e., not designating the nominated McKinney Butte ACEC) would have no effect on the lands program, minerals exploration and development, or off-highway vehicle use. These activities would still be guided by the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act and the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI - BLM, 1999).</p> <p><i>Cave Resources:</i> Eleven caves in the nominated ACEC area have been designated as significant. The existing level of cave-related management attention and emphasis would continue, resulting in a substantial risk of adverse impacts to the physical, scenic, and biological cave resources in the area. A partial list of some of the kinds of cave resource values which may be impacted includes geologic features, fragile mineral formations, bat hibernacula, and cave habitat quality.</p> <p><i>Paleontological Resources:</i> Caves in the nominated ACEC [continued]</p>	<p><i>Cave Resources:</i> One additional cave would become significant upon designation of the proposed Tee-Maze ACEC, resulting in a total of 12 known significant caves in the ACEC area. The significance designation would give all the caves in the ACEC area the added protection provided by the appropriate Federal cave regulations and BLM policy. The proposed ACEC designation would likely result in an increased level of management presence and management emphasis in the ACEC area. Some of the likely outcomes from this action would be earlier detection of any cave resource degradation, an increase in protection of both known and undiscovered cave resource values, and a greater likelihood that any proposed cave projects or management actions would be funded and implemented. Fewer adverse impacts to the physical, scenic, and biological cave resources would be expected than under existing management.</p> <p><i>Lands:</i> Prohibiting new land authorizations in the ACEC is not expected to have an impact, based on the current low use of the area and the opportunity to use an existing utility right-of-way corridor. The close proximity of the proposed ACEC to public access routes makes the area accessible to the public and for utilities uses. Highway 75 runs along the eastern boundary of the ACEC, and this highway has been used for utilities. Future utilities would be allowed within the existing Highway 75 right-of-way corridor; therefore, no impacts are expected.</p> <p><i>Minerals:</i> The proposed designation would have no effect on leasable or locatable minerals activity, since this type of activity is unlikely to occur in the ACEC area. Limiting new mineral materials site developments to public lands adjacent to State Highway 75 may affect the BLM’s ability to satisfy the public’s future demand for mineral materials. These impacts are expected to be minimal because future demand for mineral materials can be met by sources on public lands outside the ACEC.</p> <p><i>OHV Use:</i> The proposed OHV use limitations would eliminate cross country use in the ACEC area. This limitation would primarily affect recreationists (e.g., hunters) who are used to cross-country access in the Tee-Maze area. (Note: Exceptions for off-road travel are granted to Tribal members and may be granted to others who require periodic cross-country motorized access within the ACEC.)</p> <p><i>Paleontological Resources:</i> If, in the future, additional paleontological resources are discovered within the ACEC’s caves, these resources would be afforded greater protection through the ACEC designation. For example, restrictions could be placed on cave access to ensure the preservation of identified deposits. Paleontological resources may be excavated by qualified, permitted researchers, but the resources would remain Federal property and be available for research by qualified professionals.</p>		<p>[continued]</p>

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<p><i>Tee Maze ACEC/RNA</i> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><i>Paleontological Resources</i> (continued): area have a high potential for additional paleontological resources. However, existing management does not emphasize management or protection of these resources. The risk of loss of significant known paleontological resources is low, however, since these resources must be considered during the NEPA analysis that would be completed prior to any proposed action.</p> <p><i>Wildlife:</i> Eleven caves in the nominated area list biota as one of the values which contributed to their determination as significant caves. Monitoring and inventory of wildlife which utilize cave habitat in the area would continue at existing levels. This would result in the increased possibility that (a) some cave-adapted wildlife species may not be discovered, and (b) the habitat condition for some of the known wildlife species may be adversely impacted before the existing monitoring activities have detected a change in habitat condition.</p>	<p><i>Wildlife:</i> The increased management emphasis as a result of ACEC designation would reduce the potential level of human impact to many troglotic (completing entire life cycle in caves) species found in the caves. This would primarily benefit cave-adapted and cave-loving wildlife. An anticipated systematic and thorough inventory of cave life, followed by specific cave monitoring actions, would benefit and conserve the many types of animals which use the caves for part or all of their life cycle needs. The expected increases in the type, level, and frequency of cave habitat monitoring would result in earlier detection of habitat degradation and reduce the level of adverse impacts to the wildlife species utilizing the caves.</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
Cumulative Impacts	<p>The analysis of cumulative impacts includes the consideration of past, present and reasonably foreseeable impacts that could result from a specific action or set of actions.</p>			
	<p><i>Cave Resources:</i> Failure to provide added management attention and emphasis to the physical and biological cave resources would result in the continued incremental loss of non-renewable resources and the degradation of fragile renewable resources found in the caves within the planning area.</p>	<p><i>Cave Resources:</i> The proposed cave resources ACEC designations and management actions are designed to provide for recreational and scientific uses while conserving and protecting renewable and non-renewable cave resources. Following the creation of the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument, some lands previously managed by the BLM are currently managed by the National Park Service. All caves on National Park Service land are automatically designated as significant caves; as a result, these caves will likely receive additional protection and management attention. The proposed designation of the McKinney Butte and Tee-Maze ACEC/RNAs, would result in further beneficial impacts to the physical, scenic, paleontological, and biological resources found in caves on the Snake River Plain.</p> <p><i>Economy and Society:</i> Many of the proposed ACECs (all except Camas Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze) already have a WSA designation on some or all of the proposed ACEC lands, with accompanying management restrictions. Two of the proposed ACECs (Dry Creek and King Hill Creek) also have an eligible Wild and Scenic River determination which includes management constraints. Designating the proposed ACECs would further limit some forms of public use on the affected public lands (e.g., land use authorizations, OHV use, livestock grazing, mineral materials site development). However, the ACEC designation would protect the identified ACEC values for the long term, in the event that a WSA is released by Congress from wilderness review and/or the eligible Wild and Scenic River segment is not found suitable for inclusion in the Nationwide system.</p> <p><i>Fisheries:</i> The proposed King Hill Creek ACEC designation and management actions are expected to provide additional protective measures to maintain the genetic integrity and current population of Interior redband trout occurring in the drainage. The protective measures and additional management attention applied to streams containing redband trout in the adjacent Lower Snake River District - BLM, and the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe, Boise and Payette National Forests, when combined with the actions proposed for the King Hill Creek ACEC, would maintain and may increase the integrity and purity of the redband trout gene pool. This action would help maintain the natural diversity of the genetic resource amongst redband trout populations.</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources</i>	<p>Casual, unpermitted activity by public land users could have an impact to cultural, paleontological, or cave resources that is irreversible and irretrievable; unauthorized collection and excavation are known to have occurred in the Field Office area. Existing legislation (Archeological Resources Protection Act, Federal Cave Resources Protection Act) defines penalties for such damage to cultural resources or cave resources. It is beyond the capability of law, regulation, policy, or existing or proposed management to prevent all inadvertent or willfully harmful activities that may result in irreversible and irretrievable damage to cultural, paleontological, or cave resources in the Shoshone Field Office area.</p>			
	<p><i>Cave Resources and Paleontological Resources:</i> The potential for irretrievable loss of cave formations and vertebrate paleontological resources would continue without the added level of management presence and management emphasis afforded by the two nominated cave ACECs.</p> <p><i>Fisheries:</i> Failure to provide additional protection to the redband trout habitat in King Hill Creek would leave this genetically pure trout population at continued risk of becoming hybridized with non-native trout strains. The result of this action would be the loss of the distinct genetic composition of this redband trout population.</p>	<p><i>Cultural Resources:</i> The proposed Bennett Hills and Coyote Hills ACEC designations may draw increased attention to the cultural resources in those areas, thereby increasing the risk of unauthorized excavation or vandalism which could result in an irreversible and irretrievable loss of cultural resources.</p> <p>[continued]</p>		

Identified Issue: New ACEC Designations <i>Proposed ACEC</i>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 (BLM Preferred)	Alternative 4
<i>Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources</i> <i>(continued)</i>			<p>ACEC designations are generally considered permanent, unless the designations are amended or reversed through a future land use plan amendment. The loss of resource and land use opportunities that would occur as a result of an ACEC designation and related management actions is an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the affected resources and land uses. Depending on the specific ACEC being considered, the designations proposed in these amendments include management actions which would restrict future uses for some or all of the following purposes: livestock grazing, land use authorizations, mineral material sales, and motorized vehicle use. These management actions would result in an irreversible and irretrievable loss of those land uses within the affected ACECs. The loss of livestock grazing and OHV use is considered to be minor, since very little livestock grazing or OHV use presently occurs in the affected ACECs. The loss of mineral materials site development opportunity is also considered minor for four of the seven affected ACECs (Camas Creek, Dry Creek, King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte); adequate alternative mineral material sites could be developed on public lands in close proximity to the affected ACECs. The Bennett Hills, Coyote Hills, and Tee-Maze ACEC designations would result in a more substantial loss of mineral material resources, to the extent that (a) some local road departments may find it difficult to satisfy their needs for mineral materials for road maintenance purposes, and (b) the BLM may not be able to meet other future public demand for mineral materials. The proposed restriction on new land use authorizations would have minimal impact within four of the five affected ACECs (Camas Creek, Dry Creek, King Hill Creek, and McKinney Butte); the affected areas are either remote and already restricted from new land use authorizations, have little current or foreseen use, and/or lie within areas where actions could be re-routed elsewhere. The impacts would be slightly greater within the Tee-Maze ACEC where there is public interest in authorizations for water pipelines and utilities.</p>	

Consistency Efforts and Determination

NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1502.16(c)) and BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.3-2) require the BLM to attempt to achieve consistency between BLM resource management plans and the following:

1. The officially approved or related resource-related plans, policies, and programs of Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments; and
2. In the absence of officially approved or related resource-related plans, policies, and programs of Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments, then the officially approved and adopted resource-related policies and programs of Indian Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are consistent with the policies, programs, and provisions of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands.

During preparation of this environmental assessment, the following efforts were made to ensure consistency with management strategies officially approved or adopted by Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments.

In December 1999, BLM mailed letters to Tribal, Federal, State and local offices, explaining the BLM's intent to prepare amendments to four land use plans and asking for information about their approved or adopted resource related plans, programs, or policies. Other efforts to achieve consistency included briefings for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and U.S. and Idaho Congressional representatives and staff, and meetings with County Commissioners and City Councils.

The analysis of existing management identified a likely inconsistency with local government plans (see page 64). Existing management makes insufficient public lands available for disposal to meet the local governments' needs for infrastructure development, community expansion, and economic development. Additional public lands may be made available for the governments' consideration, but only after a plan amendment is completed to identify those lands for potential disposal. Over time, local governments may find that existing management direction does not help them meet their planning goals and objectives within reasonable time frames.

No inconsistencies were identified for Alternatives 2, 3, or 4. However, Alternative 3 is believed to be the most effective at enabling the Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments to achieve their resource-related planning goals and objectives within reasonable time frames.

Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

Public and tribal comments received during the scoping period were used to determine the scope of the proposed action and alternatives discussed in this document.

The BLM initiated the scoping process for these amendments with a *Federal Register* “Notice of Intent to Prepare Land Use Plan Amendments for Land Tenure Adjustment and New Designations of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) within the Upper Snake River District (USRD), Shoshone Field Office, in Southern Idaho” (December 15, 1999: Vol. 64, No. 240, pp. 70050-51). No responses were received from the public as a result of this notice.

Additional attempts were made to encourage public involvement through mailings, press releases, open house style meetings, presentations, and briefings.

A “Scoping Newsletter” distributed on December 6, 1999, requested input on preliminary planning issues, management concerns, and planning criteria. This document was sent to those individuals, agencies, and organizations the BLM anticipated would be interested in the proposed amendments. On January 7, 2000, an additional scoping document was mailed; this document described preliminary alternatives and zone designations, and requested comments by January 31, 2000. An open house was held on January 12, 2000, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to present information and answer questions from the public. Thirty-nine participants registered at the open house and 56 comments were submitted for consideration. Briefings were given to the “Wing and Roots” forum of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (11/10/99), the Land Use Policy Commission of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (11/24/99, 6/15/00, 3/12/01, and 3/12/02), and the Upper Snake River District Resource Advisory Council (12/2/99, 11/30/00, 2/22/01, 5/31/01, 7/25/01, 11/29/01, and 2/28/02). Upon request, additional presentations/meetings were held with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (2/25/00, 3/1/02, and 3/20/02), the Idaho Department of Water Resources (2/6/01 and 12/18/01), the Idaho Department of Lands (2/6/01, 12/18/01, and 3/18/02), Blaine County (2/22/00), and the City of Ketchum (2/22/00). On May 10, 2000, State Representative Wendy Jaquet held a public meeting for her constituents to gather their input on the proposed amendments.

In an attempt to reach other potentially interested individuals and organizations not specified on the mailing lists, press releases were sent to the following newspapers on 12/01/99 (“BLM Seeks Public Feedback on Area Land Use Plan”) and 12/28/99 (“BLM Schedules Public Open House on Plan Amendments”): *Twin Falls Times News*, *South Idaho Press* (Burley), *Gooding County Leader*, *Wood River Journal*, *North Side News*, *Idaho Mountain Express*, *Lincoln County Journal*, and *Minidoka County News*. The scoping documents, news releases, and *Federal Register* notice were also posted on the Idaho BLM web page.

All local governments, tribal governments, and Federal and State agencies having resource management responsibilities or interests within the planning area were informed of the proposed plan amendments and asked for information regarding the scope of the amendments and the issues and concerns they would like considered. (**Note:** Issues and concerns are discussed on pages 2 to 3 of this Environmental Assessment.)

During the scoping period the BLM received comments from the following Indian tribes, government agencies and representatives, businesses, organizations, and individuals:

Indian Tribes

- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

Government Agencies and Representatives

- Blaine, Camas, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka County Commissioners
- Blaine, Camas, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka County Planning and Zoning
- BLM Lands Foundation
- Camas Soil Conservation District
- Cities of Ketchum, Twin Falls, Bliss, Shoshone, Jerome, and Hailey
- Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish & Game
- Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle
- Governor Dirk Kempthorne
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa
- Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
- Idaho State Legislature Representative Wendy Jaquet
- Idaho State Senator Denton Darrington
- Idaho State Senator Clint Stennett
- Lincoln County Extension Office
- Malad Gorge State Park
- Minidoka County Community Development
- Twin Falls County Parks & Recreation
- Twin Falls Research & Extension Center
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise
- U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Forest, Ketchum Ranger District
- U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Forest, Fairfield Ranger District
- U.S. Senator Larry E. Craig
- U.S. Senator Michael D. Crapo
- U.S. Representative Mike Simpson
- Upper Snake River District Resource Advisory Council
- University of Idaho, Anthropology Department
- Wood River Resource Conservation & Development

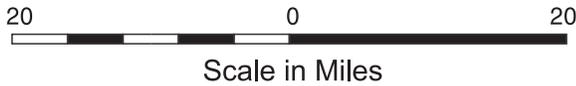
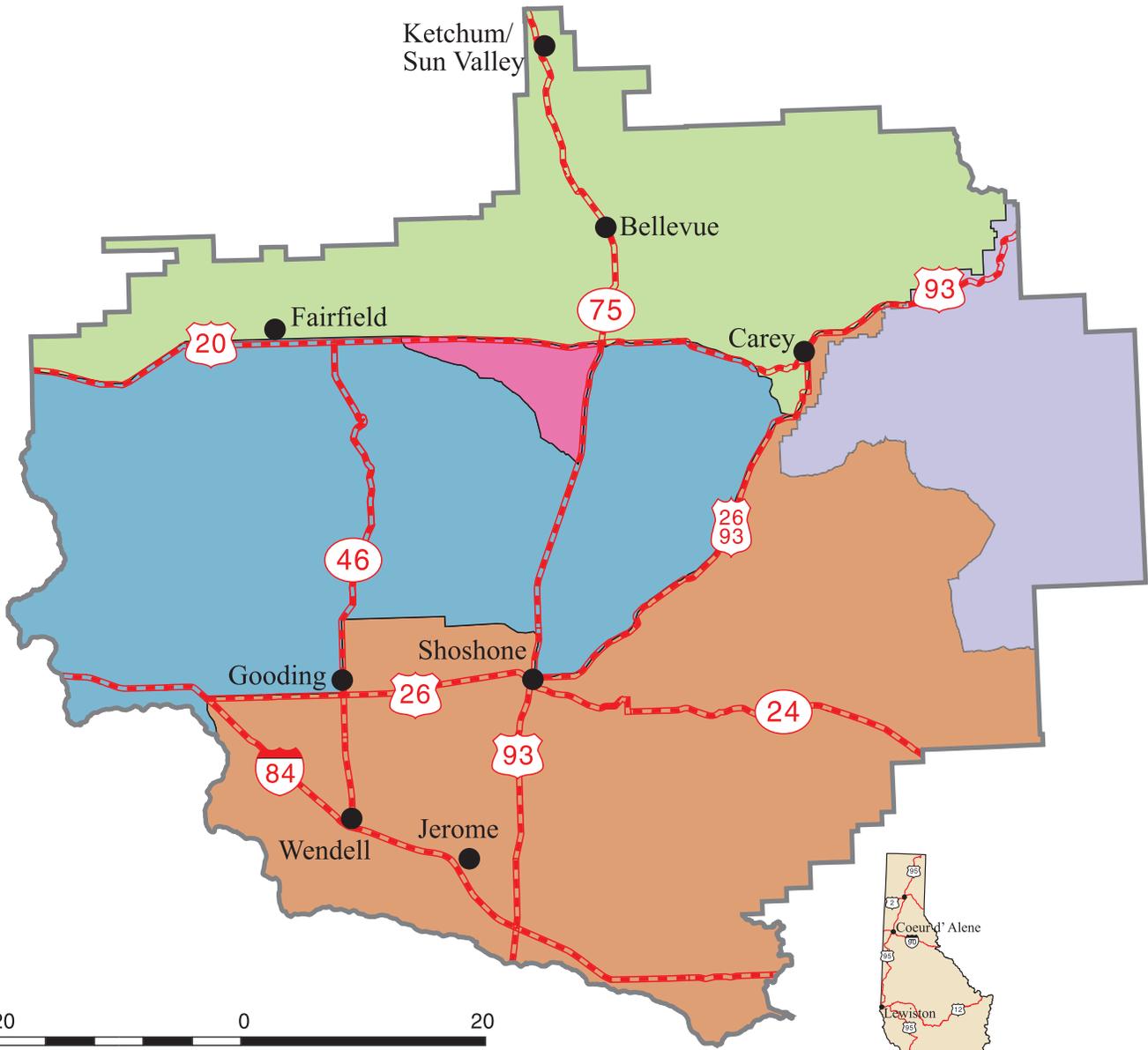
Businesses, Organizations, and Private Individuals

- American Lands Alliance
- American Wildlands
- Committee For Idaho's High Desert
- Flat Top Sheep Co.
- Gem State Realty, Inc.
- Hulen Meadows Water Company & Owners Association, Inc.
- Idaho Chapter of Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Falconer's Association
- Idaho Rivers United
- Idaho Watershed Project (Western Watershed Project)
- Idaho Wildlife Federation, Land Exchange Commission
- National Wildlife Federation
- Neilsen & Company
- North American Falconer's Association
- Pocket Ranch Dairy
- Sun Valley Real Estate, LLC
- Tews Land & Livestock
- The Brokerage at Warm Springs
- The Jarvis Group
- Tunupa Ranch
- Union Pacific Railroad Co.
- USA - Unlimited Sports Action
- U.S. Combustion Products, Inc.
- Wood River Land Trust
- 47 private individuals

At present, the mailing list of those interested in the proposed amendments includes more than 500 persons, agencies, and organizations.

MAP 1

SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE PUBLIC LANDS MANAGED ACCORDING TO EXISTING LAND USE PLANS

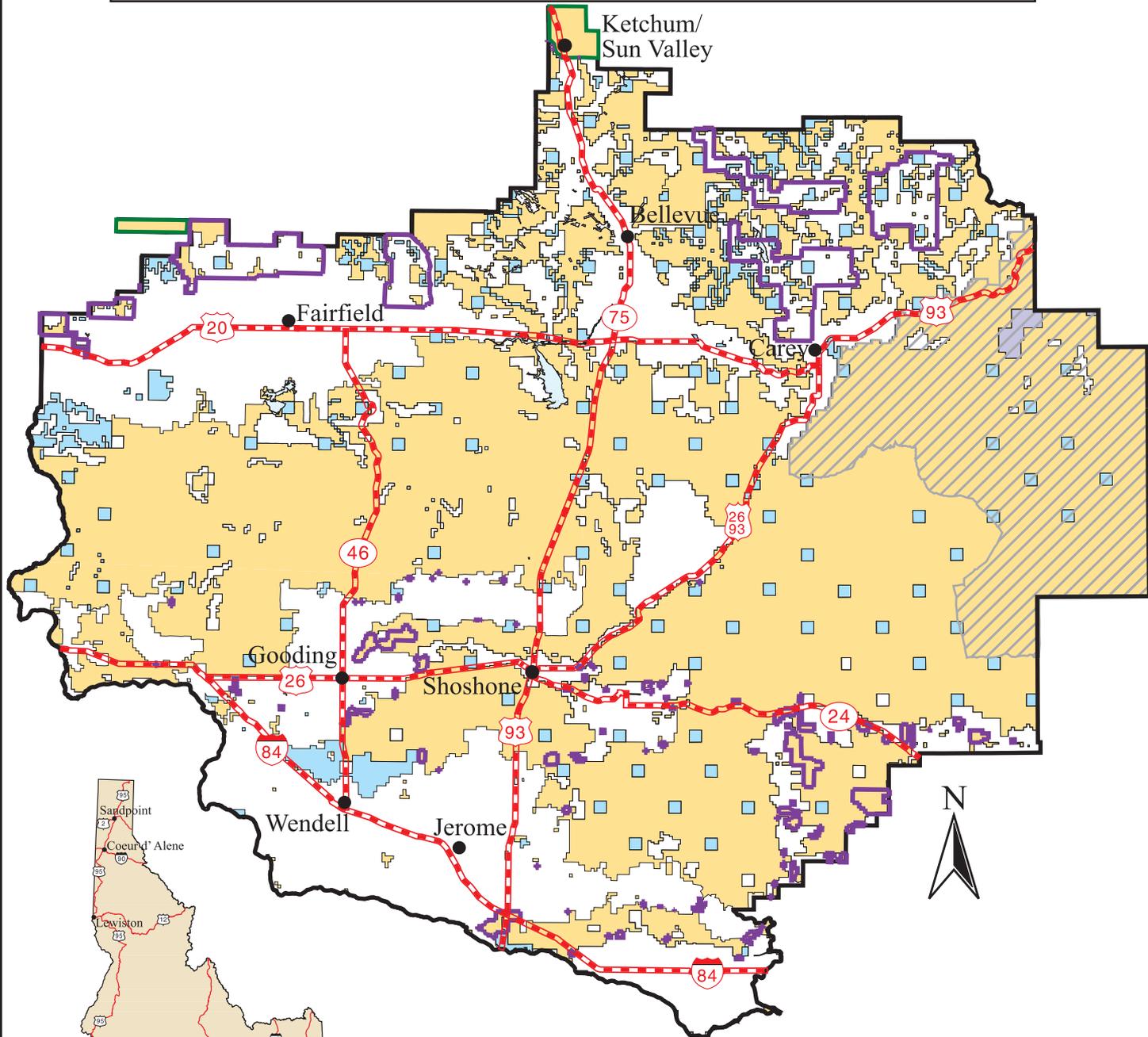


Map Legend	
Shoshone Field Office Boundary.....	
Craters of the Moon National Monument	
Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP.....	
Magic MFP.....	
Sun Valley MFP.....	
Monument RMP.....	
Highway: Interstate; U.S.; State.....	

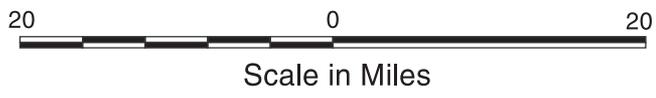
Land management actions would only apply to public lands administered by the BLM.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of these data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

MAP 2 SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE LAND STATUS AND TRACTS CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED FOR POTENTIAL DISPOSAL



Area of Interest

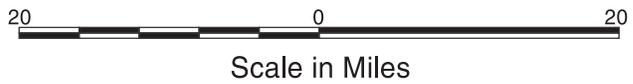
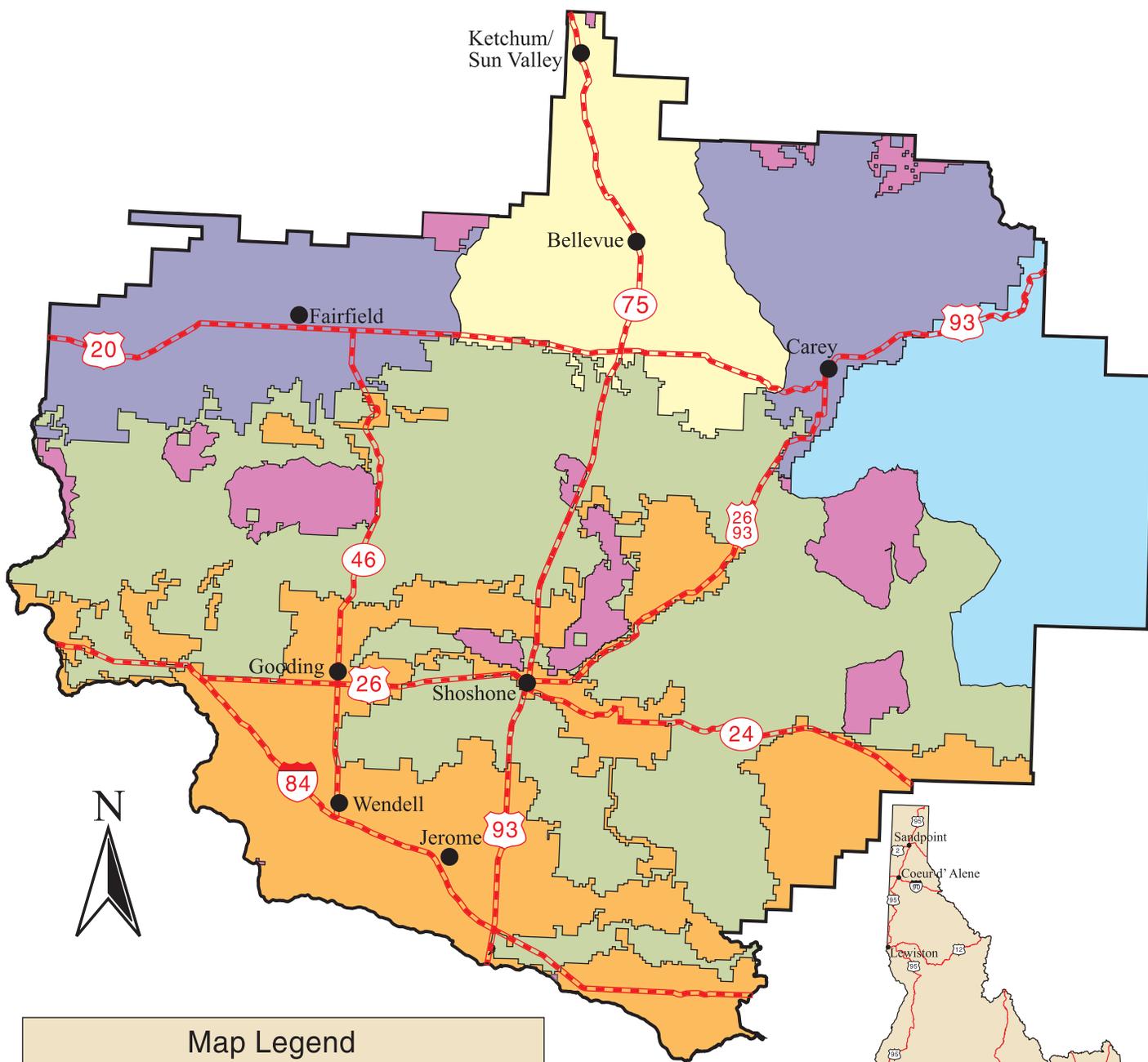


Map Legend

- Shoshone Field Office Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- National Park Service
- Craters of the Moon National Monument
- Public Lands currently identified for disposal
(see Appendix 6, Alternative 1)
- Exchange to Forest Service only
- Highway: Interstate; U.S; State

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of these data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

MAP 3 LAND TENURE MANAGEMENT ZONES, ALTERNATIVES 2-4

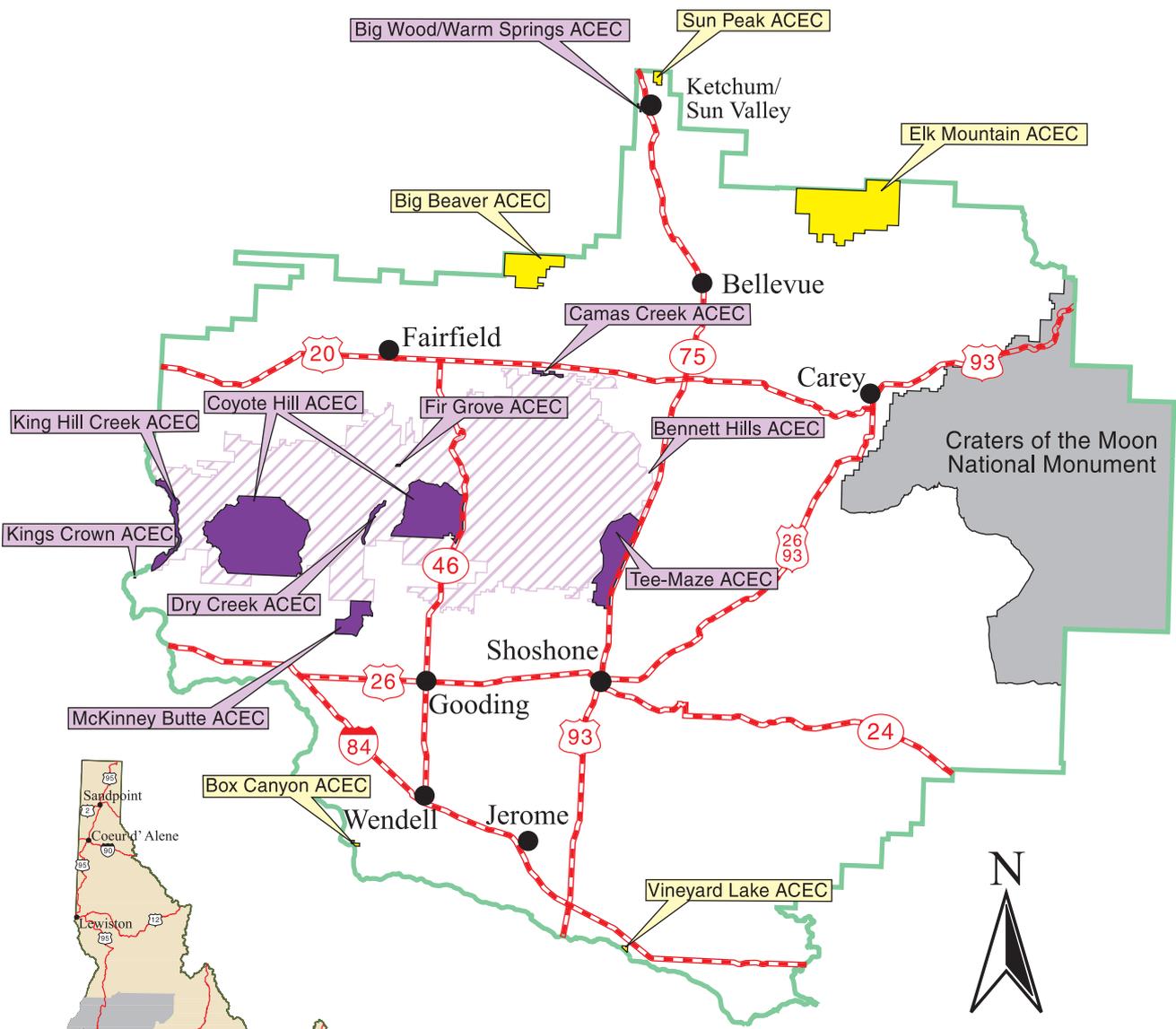


Map Legend	
Shoshone Field Office Boundary...	
Craters of the Moon National Monument.....	
Zone 1.....	
Zone 2.....	
Zone 3 (Alternatives 2-4).....	
Zone 4.....	
Zone 3 (Alternative 4 only).....	
Zone 5 (Alternatives 2&3 only)	
Highway: Interstate; U.S.; State.....	

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Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of these data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

MAP 4 NOMINATED AND EXISTING ACECS IN THE SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE



Scale in Miles

Map Legend

- Shoshone Field Office Boundary
- Existing ACEC*
- Nominated ACEC
- Existing ACEC Name
- Nominated ACEC Name
- Highway: Interstate; U.S.; State..
- *Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Land management actions would only apply to public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of these data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

Appendix 1

Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment

FLPMA and other Federal laws, Executive Orders, and policies suggest criteria to use when categorizing public lands for retention or disposal, and for identifying acquisition priorities. The following list of criteria is not considered all-inclusive, but represents the major activities and issues affecting lands within the planning area. These criteria are meant to streamline consideration of land tenure adjustment proposals.

These criteria would be among those considered in preparing land reports and environmental analyses for specific land tenure adjustment proposals following completion of the plan amendments. Land tenure adjustments involving sales, exchanges, or R&PP patents may be permitted based on site-specific application of these adjustment criteria. Transfer to other public agencies will also be considered where improved management efficiency would result. All disposal actions would be consistent with the Alternative and zones selected in the final decision for this document.

Lands with Highest Priority for Retention or Acquisition

- Those lands specifically identified by the Shoshone-Bannock and/or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes as having special importance related to treaty and/or traditional uses/values;
- Important, crucial, or critical habitat for special status species including proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; State-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species;
- Riparian areas and wetlands;
- Parcels that provide public and/or administrative access to larger blocks of public land;
- Lands with special designation or management emphasis (see category below).

Special Designation/Management Areas Where it is a High Priority to Acquire Inholdings

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or lands adjacent to and important for expansion of such areas;
- National Historic Trails;
- Wild and Scenic Rivers (eligible, recommended suitable, or designated);
- Significant cultural resources and sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places;
- Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas.

Areas Generally Retained, but May be Exchanged for Parcels with Higher Resource Values

- Important habitat for fish or wildlife;
- Developed recreation sites and recreation access;
- Recreation opportunities and benefits;
- Significant energy and mineral resources;
- Significant cave resources;
- Significant paleontological resources.

Areas that Are a High Priority for Disposal

- Parcels which are difficult or costly to administer (manageability and/or isolation of the parcel);
- Parcels more suitable for management by another Federal or State agency;
- Parcels of special importance to (and generally adjacent to) local communities for purposes including, but not limited to, community expansion, extended community services, or economic development.

Other Issues to be Considered Prior to any Land Tenure Adjustment Action

- To what extent the individual action will help achieve overall land ownership management objectives at the watershed level, in cooperation with State and private landowners;
- Existing legal accessibility of the land for public uses;
- Amount of public investments in facilities or improvements and the potential for recovering those investments;
- Consistency with cooperative agreements and plans or policies of other agencies.

Appendix 2 - Part A: Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Air Quality	The Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
Cultural Resources	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
Environmental Justice	Executive Order 12898
Farm Lands (Prime or Unique)	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977
Floodplain	Executive Order 11988, as amended
Native American Religious Concerns	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
Threatened or Endangered Species	Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
Water Quality, Drinking or Ground	Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended and Clean Water Act of 1977
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Executive Order 11990
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended
Wilderness	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and Wilderness Act of 1964

Appendix 2 - Part B

Summary Analysis of “No Impact” or “Minimal Impact” for Select Elements of the Human Environment

Air Quality: There is slight potential for parcels that are transferred from public ownership to temporarily degrade air quality periodically once construction or development begins. Anticipated soil disturbance from these activities is a potential source of fugitive dust and other air pollutants. However, the disturbed areas would be in scattered locations and at different times. There would be temporary increases in fugitive dust and other emissions, but the increases are not anticipated to be large enough to affect air quality on a regional basis. Any proposed land tenure adjustment action would be analyzed prior to the disposal being approved, and site-specific air quality impacts (if any) would be disclosed.

Floodplains/Wetlands/Riparian Areas: Both BLM policy and Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 guide BLM management of floodplains, wetlands, and riparian zones. Based on these sources, BLM Manual 1737.45C establishes four criteria, all of which must be met before any riparian or wetland area can be conveyed to a non-Federal party:

1. The tract of public wetlands is either so small or remote that is uneconomical to manage.
2. The tract of public wetlands is not suitable for management by any other agency.
3. The patent contains restrictions of uses as prohibited by identified Federal, State, or local wetland regulations.
4. The patent contains restrictions and conditions that ensure the payee can maintain, restore, and protect the wetland on a continuous basis.

The last criterion in particular ensures that any riparian tract leaving Federal ownership will remain undeveloped and retain its riparian character. (Please note, the definitions for wetland and riparian are essentially identical.) A site-specific analysis would be conducted on all proposed land tenure adjustments or other lands actions and for all projects proposed to be implemented in an existing or proposed ACEC. That analysis would ensure that all four of the cited criteria are met. Thus, the proposed amendments would have no adverse effect on floodplains, wetlands, or riparian areas. [**Note:** Beneficial effects to riparian areas that would result from the proposed land tenure and ACEC amendment actions are described in the Environmental Impacts chapter of this document.]

Prime/Unique Farm Lands: Existing policies mandated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 require the consideration of prime or unique farm lands. There are no known prime or unique farm lands that could be impacted by either the land tenure or ACEC portions of the proposed amendments.

Environmental Justice: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to result in any potential action that would result in the disproportion of impacts on minority or disadvantaged groups or people.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to result in any potential action that would result in the generation of hazardous or solid wastes or interfere with management of such wastes under applicable Federal or State laws. In addition, inventories for these materials would be conducted prior to any land tenure adjustment, and mitigation would be required (if possible) or the site would be precluded from land tenure adjustment.

Other Special Designations (National Monument, Wilderness, National Recreation Trails): The land use plan amendments would not apply to the portion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument within the Shoshone Field Office area; thus, there would be no impact to the National Monument. The Shoshone Field Office does not have any designated Wilderness Areas; thus those resources are not affected by the proposed action. The two National Recreation Trails managed by the Shoshone Field Office (Big Wood River National Recreation Trail and Bald Mountain National Recreation Trail) do not have any inholdings or potential for acquisition at either end of the Trails' passage through the Field Office area; thus, the proposed criteria for land tenure adjustment would have no effect on these trails.

Appendix 3

Evaluation of Nominated ACECs

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in Resource Management Plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2. These criteria are further explained in BLM Manual Section 1613.1. The following notations apply to each ACEC “Criteria Review Checklist” in this Appendix:

- ¹ **Relevance** - An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following: a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including, but not limited to, rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans); a fish or wildlife resource (including, but not limited to, habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity); a natural process or system (including, but not limited to, endangered, threatened, or sensitive plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features; for the purposes of these amendments, an example of a process is cave formation, and an example of a system is a functioning cave environment or riparian area); or a natural hazard (including, but not limited to, areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs).

Yes - The area contains the value, resource, process, system, or hazard.

No - The area does not contain the value, resource, process, system, or hazard.

- ² **Importance** - The value, resource, system, process, or hazard must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following: (1) Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource; (2) Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy National priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA; (4) Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare; (5) Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Yes - The value, resource, system, process, or hazard has substantial significance and values and meets one or more of the importance factors listed above.

No - The area contains the value, resource, system, process, or hazard, but the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is not substantially significant and does not meet the importance factors listed above.

N/A - The value, resource, system, process, or hazard is not found within the area.

- ³ **Bibliographical information:**

Quigley, T.M. and S.J. Arbelbide (Tech. Eds.). 1997. *An Assessment of Ecosystem Components in the Interior Columbia Basin and Portions of the Klamath and Great Basins: Volume 2*. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-405. USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR. pp. 620-624.

- ⁴ **Research Natural Area**

The BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook provides for Research Natural Areas to be designated as types of ACECs using the ACEC designation process (H-1601-1, Appendix C, page 18). A research natural area is

an area which contains natural resource values of scientific interest and is managed primarily for research and educational purposes.

⁵ **Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes**

Class I - The objective of this class is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. Any contrast created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. It is applied to wilderness areas, some natural areas, wild portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other similar situations where management activities are restricted.

Class II - The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III - The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. However, the change should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape.

Class IV - The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale; however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape.

⁶ **Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Use Designations**

Open: Motorized vehicle is permitted yearlong anywhere within an area designation as “open” to OHV use, if the vehicle is operated responsibly.

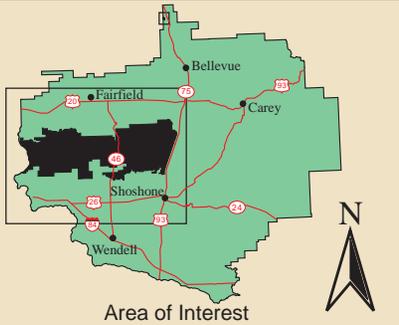
Limited: Motorized vehicle travel within specified areas and/or on designated routes, road, vehicle ways, or trails is subject to restrictions.

Closed: Motorized vehicle travel is prohibited in the area. Access by means other than motorized vehicle is permitted. Vehicle use may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

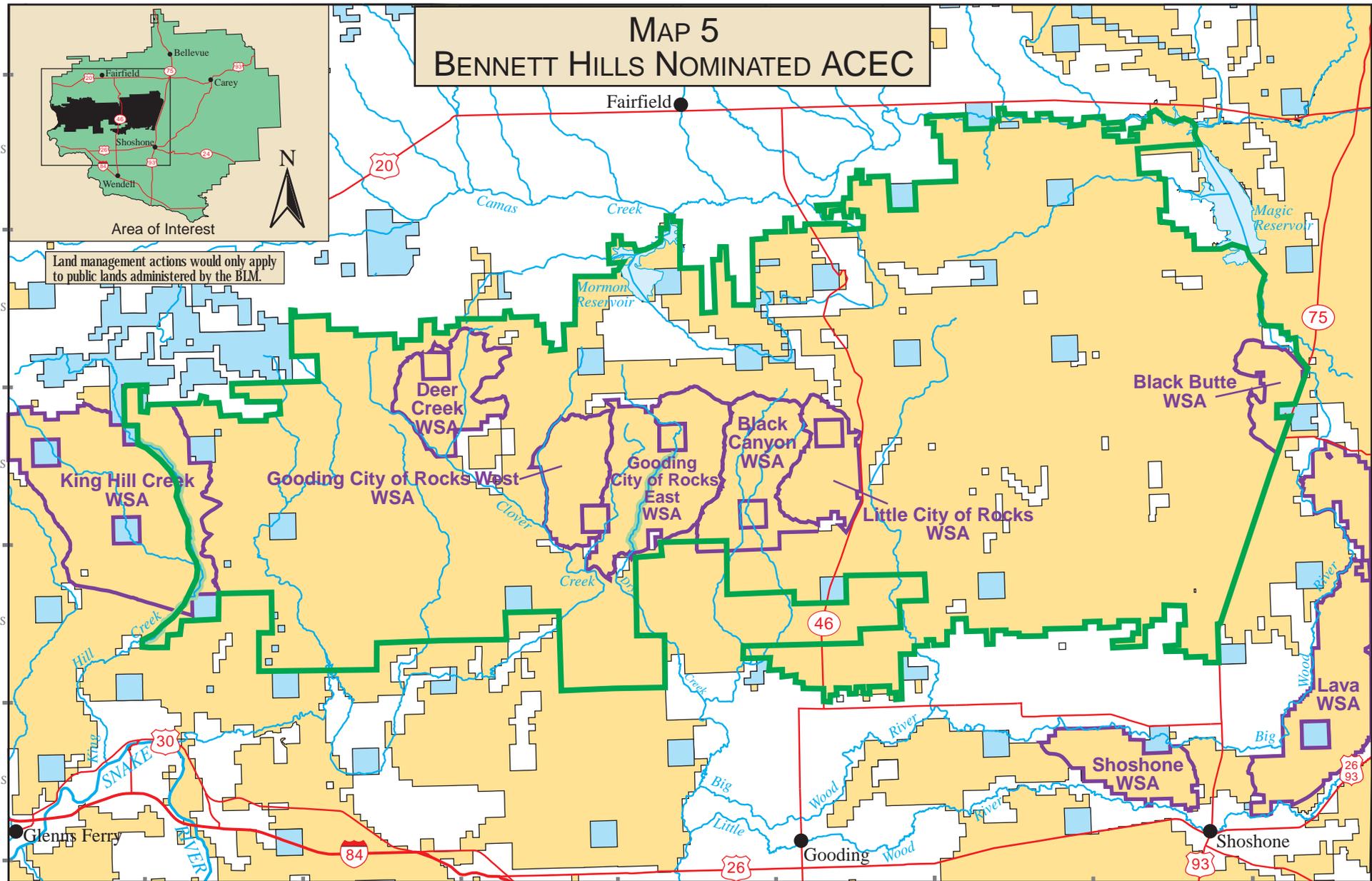
Exceptions for Off-road Use:

Off-road vehicle use (cross-country use) would be allowed within areas with a “closed” or “limited” off-highway vehicle use designation under these circumstances: (a) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (b) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved; (c) vehicles in official use (43 CFR 8340.0-7); (d) vehicles being used by members or representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to access traditional use areas of importance to the Tribes; and (e) vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to exercise their tribally reserved treaty rights.

MAP 5 BENNETT HILLS NOMINATED ACEC



Land management actions would only apply to public lands administered by the BLM.



T1S
T2S
T3S
T4S
T5S
R10E R11E R12E R13E R14E R15E R16E R17E R18E

Scale in Miles
0 5 10

Map Legend	
	ACEC Boundary
	Bureau of Land Management
	Roads
	Streams
	Wilderness Study Area
	Private Lands
	State Lands
	Eligible for Wild and Scenic River Study

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

BENNETT HILLS ACEC - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Bennett Hills - 381,471 acres

Nominated By: Committee for Idaho’s High Desert

Location: See Map 5.

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: The nominated Bennett Hills ACEC encompasses the nominated Coyote Hills ACEC (see pp. 145-146 and Map 8), which contains more than 100 sites with pictographs and petroglyphs that represent anthropomorphs, abstract geometric designs, and the occasional horse and rider. Sites in the Coyote Hills ACEC area may also include tools and artifacts useful in determining the age of the sites and their relationship to each other. While ethnographers mention that many people traveled north from the Snake River in summer to gather yampa and camas bulbs on the Camas Prairie, they make few references to the Bennett Hills. However, these uplands had to be traversed in the spring and then again in late summer. Camas was reportedly gathered in great quantities on the prairie and preserved for winter, and as much as possible was transported to the Snake River and stored in rocks in the canyon walls. Steward’s only reference to the Bennett Hills states that groups would gather chokecherries in the “hills south of Camas Prairie” before returning to the Snake River for the fall salmon runs (Steward 1938). Yet reconnaissance surveys have revealed high densities of prehistoric sites in the region. Documented prehistoric sites include rockshelters, overhangs, extensive petroglyph panels, lithic scatters, and hunting blinds. Unfortunately, no formal excavations have been performed at these sites and the BLM currently has little knowledge regarding the types of subsistence activities that occurred in this upland zone. Much of this is due to the extensive looting of rockshelters and overhangs that may have contained valuable clues.	Yes
Scenic: The area has a variety of scenic values, especially along the Sawtooth Scenic Highway (portions of U.S. Highway 75).	Yes

Relevance (continued): Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
<p>Fish or Wildlife Resource: The nominated Bennett Hills ACEC encompasses the nominated King Hill Creek ACEC (see pp.158-161 and Map 12), which has significant fisheries and wildlife values. Genetically pure interior redband trout (a USFWS species of concern and Idaho priority species) are documented to occur in the nominated reach of King Hill Creek (Williams et. al., 1991). Mountain quail (also a USFWS species of concern and Idaho priority species) historically utilized this stream reach (with the latest confirmed presence in the late 1970's (Smith, 2001, personal communication)). In addition to the values present in the King Hill Creek area, the nominated Bennett Hills ACEC area has habitat for and populations of sage grouse, a BLM sensitive species, with 125 active and historic leks and both summer and winter habitat. The area has been recognized by the BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) as sage grouse source habitat and is considered a stronghold for sage grouse. The nominated Bennett Hills ACEC area may contain populations of mountain quail (although the only confirmed sighting was in the King Hill Creek area in the late 1970's) and does contain habitat that meets the basic requirements for possible future reintroduction. The existing land use plan (Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP) provides for management of the habitat should mountain quail be confirmed in the area or reintroduced.</p>	Yes
<p>Natural Process or System: The natural system in the nominated Bennett Hills ACEC area is classified as cool shrub, with most of the area (usually above 5,000 feet) in mountain big sagebrush and lower elevation areas in Wyoming big sagebrush. The drier big sagebrush types (Wyoming and Basin) used to be widespread and common. However, due to factors leading to degradation and higher fire frequencies, good examples of these types are becoming increasingly difficult to find and are highly valuable as reference areas to assist resource professionals in understanding their ecology and restoring disturbed areas. Therefore, protection of high-quality examples of these types should always be a management priority. The Bennett Hills also contain mosaics of other shrubs with the big sagebrush communities, including low sagebrush (<i>Artemisia arbuscula</i>) and early low sagebrush (<i>Artemisia longiloba</i>). This mosaic is important from the perspective of providing high quality habitat for sage grouse. Although native vegetation in much of the nominated area is relatively intact, substantial areas have been disturbed during the past 100+ years (since Europeans settled the area). Changes to the natural disturbance regime such as heavy livestock grazing, fire suppression, and introduction of highly competitive exotic annual grasses (cheatgrass and medusahead) and exotic perennial grasses (crested wheatgrass) have changed the natural ecological succession process. For example, invasion of exotic annual grasses has increased fire frequency in some areas and fire suppression has reduced fire frequency in other areas. In the Wyoming and basin big sagebrush areas at lower elevations, the invasion of exotic annual grasses has led to an increased fire frequency (some areas as often as 5 years), has removed the sagebrush from the system, and will require rehabilitation to restore the functions and processes.³ <i>However, rehabilitation and the allowance of fire within the Bennett Hills area will allow ecological processes to function closer to historic levels.</i>³</p> <p>The Bennett Hills support a number of special status plant species that may be locally abundant, but are highly endemic or restricted in distribution due to soil or other habitat requirements. This concentration of special status species, which are often indicative of high-quality vegetation communities, is somewhat unique and should be considered significant from a landscape perspective.</p>	Yes
Relevance (continued): Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No

Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	² Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural: The nominated Bennett Hills ACEC, which includes the nominated Coyote Hills ACEC, contains irreplaceable cultural resources that are extremely fragile and subject to vandalism and illegal excavation. Numerous sites have already been severely damaged by looting activities. The unusual concentration of sites indicates a special significance to aboriginal populations that stopped here along their cyclical travels to and from the Camas Prairie.	Yes
Scenic: The scenery within the nominated area is not unique or of more than local significance. There is also no significant threat to the scenic qualities that would warrant an ACEC designation of the entire Bennett Hills area.	No
Fish or Wildlife Resource: The nominated area has one <i>very</i> small portion (King Hill Creek - approximately 2,880 acres, or <i>less than one percent of the area</i>) that contains a significantly important fisheries resource (see the nominated King Hill Creek ACEC, pp. 158-161 and Map 12). This fisheries resource is localized and is not a significantly important value <i>when considered in the context of a designation that would apply to the entire Bennett Hills area</i> . A smaller ACEC is being proposed in these plan amendments (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) to provide protective management for the King Hill Creek area. Sage grouse are found throughout the Bennett Hills, and the area provides source sage grouse habitat and probably contains one or more strongholds. The area's existing land use plan (Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP) recognized these habitat values and already provides for the management and protection of sage grouse habitat as a high priority; simply designating an ACEC (for sage grouse values) would not increase the level of concern for or management of this species. The King Hill Creek portion of the nominated area historically (late 1970's) contained the eastern-most population of mountain quail documented in Idaho. However, a more recent (1989) statewide survey of mountain quail by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game did not report any mountain quail sightings in the nominated ACEC area (Robertson, 1989). <i>Since the nominated ACEC area contains only a small portion of the entire sage grouse and mountain quail habitat in the West, the area is more of local importance than of regional or national importance.</i>	No

<p>Importance (continued): Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?</p>	<p>²Yes/ No or N/A</p>
<p>Natural Process or System: The identified natural system is not vulnerable to adverse change (Importance Factor #2) under existing management. The existing land use plan for the nominated ACEC area (Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP) contains specific direction to protect and improve the native vegetation in the Bennett Hills area in order to attain and maintain good range condition, provide food and cover for specified wildlife species and a diversity of wildlife, and protect/conservate threatened or endangered plant species. Current fire management direction is for full fire suppression, especially for the protection of sage grouse "strongholds." Fire rehabilitation uses native species where it is appropriate and the rehabilitation would have a high likelihood of success. An extensive noxious weed control program has already been implemented in the Bennett Hills. This management has protected and will continue to protect the cool shrub vegetation system and corresponding habitat for known special status plant species.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Natural Hazard:</p>	<p>N/A</p>

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC. The rationale for proposing the area as an ACEC (under Alternative 2 only) is as follows:

The nominated ACEC area (approximately 381,471 acres) meets relevance and importance criteria through the presence of significant cultural values. [Note: The Bennett Hills ACEC designation would include lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office (1,660 acres) as well as public lands along King Hill Creek that are managed by the Four Rivers Field Office, Lower Snake River District - BLM (1,220 acres). The ACEC designation would amend both the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP and the Jarbidge RMP. Some portions of the Bennett Hills ACEC would have overlapping designations. All or part of the following Wilderness Study Areas lie within the proposed ACEC's boundaries: King Hill Creek, Deer Creek, Gooding City of Rocks West, Gooding City of Rocks East, Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Black Butte. In addition, the following eligible Wild and Scenic River segments occur within the proposed ACEC area: King Hill Creek and Dry Creek. If, in the future, all or some of these WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness review and/or the creeks are found unsuitable for Wild and Scenic River designation (or not designated by Congress), any Bennett Hills ACEC designation or management action that is implemented through these plan amendments would continue to apply.]

Cultural Values: Significant cultural resources are found throughout the Bennett Hills area, although cultural resources are more densely concentrated in the nominated Coyote Hills ACEC area. These resources are extremely fragile and some have already been damaged by illegal excavation or vandalism. An ACEC designation would highlight the need for protection of these fragile resources.

List the management prescription(s) necessary to maintain and protect each met relevant and important value.

Cultural Values: The proposed management prescription is to (a) protect the cultural resources and associated setting from destruction and loss and (b) allow for professional research. Management actions that would highlight and protect the Bennett Hills ACEC's cultural values include the following:

- (a) Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan which emphasizes National Register District nomination; curation of collections; limitations on any activity that may adversely impact cultural resources; fire

suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; erosion control; and site stabilization.

- (b) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to State Highway 75, State Highway 46, and the Bliss-Hill City Road.
- (c) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails.⁶
- (d) Permitting for professional research will follow the process outlined in BLM Manual 1851 for Cultural Resource Use Permits.

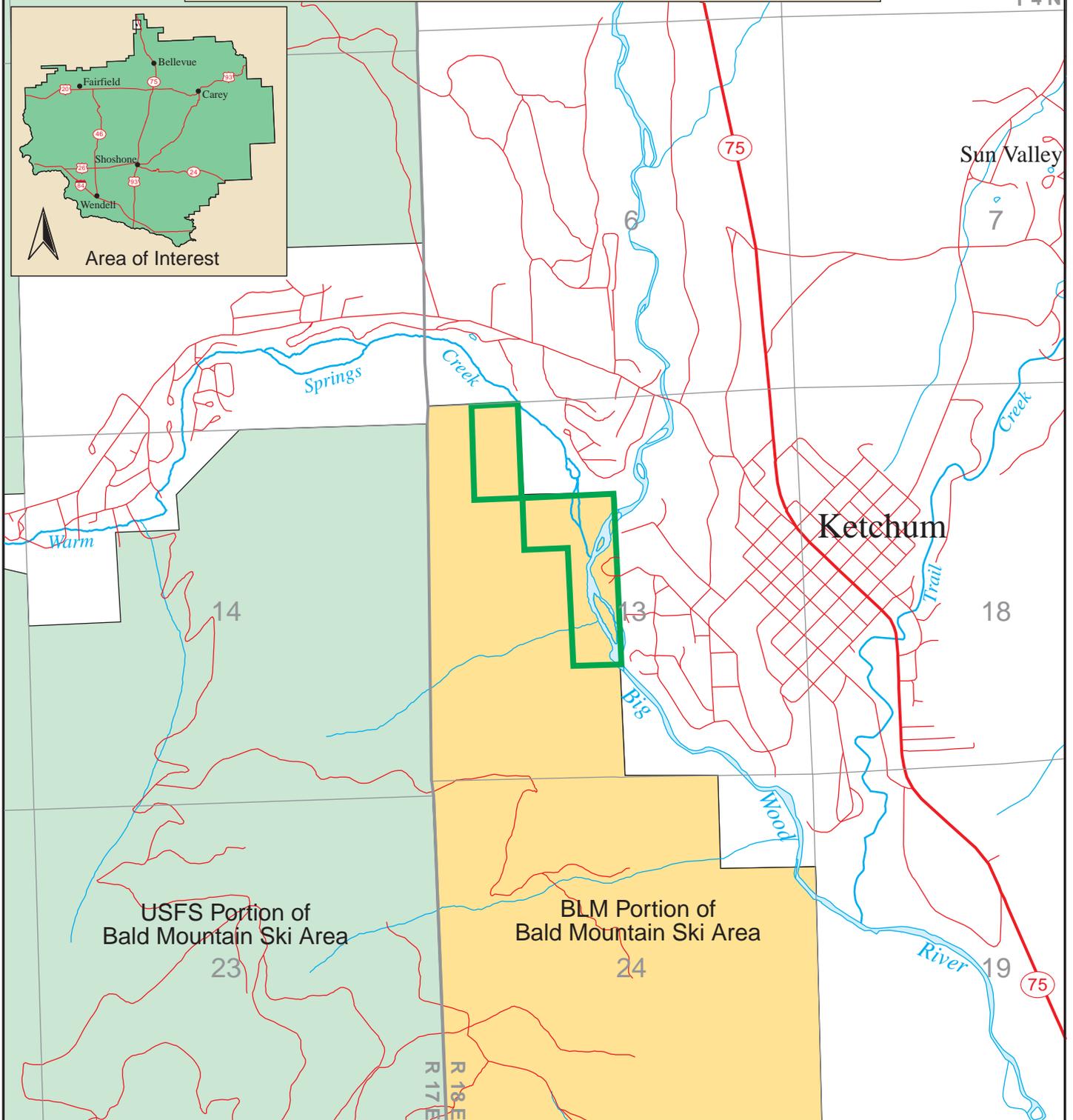
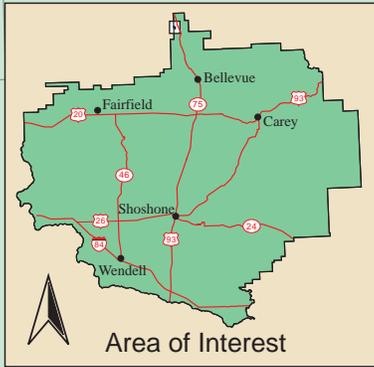
Rationale for not proposing the ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3):

Although the nominated Bennett Hills ACEC meets relevance and importance criteria for cultural values, the BLM does not recommend this potential ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative for the following reasons:

- A Cultural Resource Management Plan (activity plan) does not require an ACEC designation or other RMP action to be written and implemented.
- Cultural resources are protected under standard management provisions by law and regulation (e.g., the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979). ACEC designation is not required to highlight the Bennett Hills area for protective management.
- Highlighting the location of these cultural values through designation may draw increased attention to the resources, thereby increasing the risk of further vandalism and illegal excavation.

MAP 6 BIG WOOD/WARM SPRINGS NOMINATED ACEC

T 4 N



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Lands.....
- U.S. Forest Service.....

Base map information compiled from 1:24,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

BIG WOOD/WARM SPRINGS ACEC - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Big Wood/Warm Springs ACEC - 236 acres

Nominated By: City of Ketchum

Location: See Map 6.

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: The nominated area is within the viewshed of the Sawtooth Scenic Byway, also known as State Scenic Highway 75.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: No known significant fish or wildlife resources occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural System or Process: No known significant natural systems or processes occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: Although very important to the local residents, the scenic qualities of this parcel are not unique, being fairly typical of views in the area, and do not appear to rise to the level of regional or national importance. The nominated area lies at lower elevations along the Wood River and at the base of Bald Mountain; motorists using the Sawtooth Scenic Highway are attracted to the visual resources at elevations above the nominated area (i.e., Bald Mountain Ski Area).	No
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural System or Process:	N/A
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance, but not the importance criteria, to be considered as a potential ACEC.

The BLM's rationale for not proposing the nominated Big Wood/Warms Springs ACEC for designation is as follows:

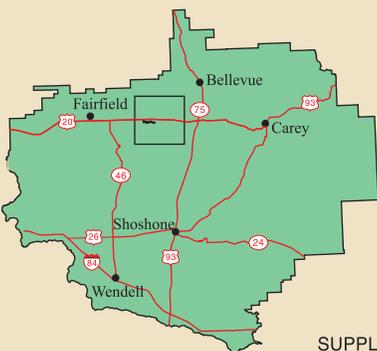
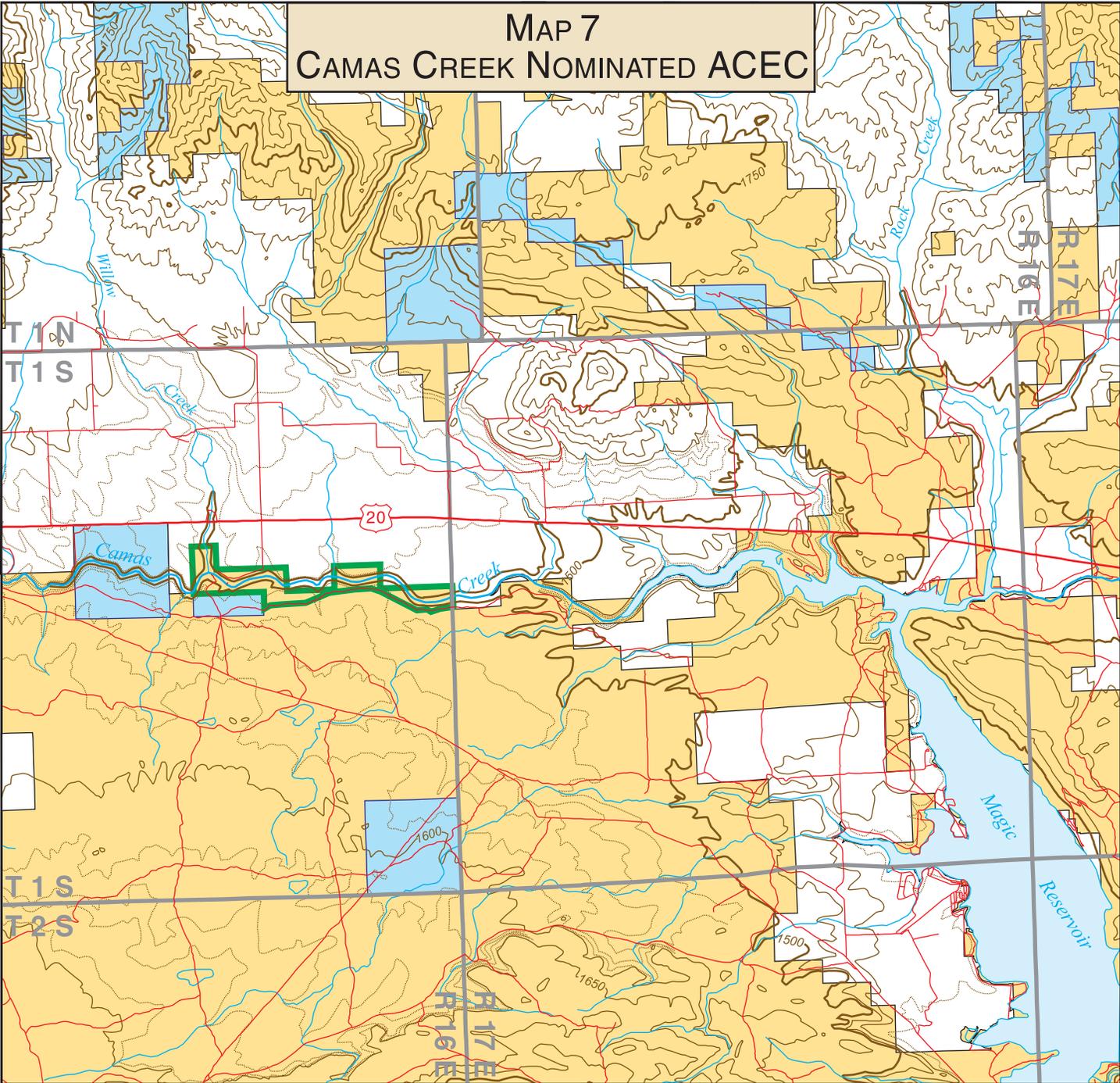
The scenic value meets the relevance, but not the importance, criteria. Although the nominated area is doubtless important to the local residents, it is not significant regionally or nationally for its scenic quality. In addition, designation as an ACEC is not necessary in order to preserve the scenic quality of this parcel for nearby residents or visitors. The scenic values are not in jeopardy under current planning direction and management. The area is already managed according to Visual Resource Inventory Class II, where the direction is to retain the existing character of the landscape. (In VRI Class II areas the level of change should be low. Management activities can be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant features of the landscape.) The existing land use plan's direction for the area is for Environmental Education purposes, for disposal to the Forest Service, and closed to motorized vehicle use (Sun Valley MFP 1981); each of these land uses is compatible with retaining the existing scenic character.

List the management prescription(s) necessary to maintain and protect each relevant and important value.

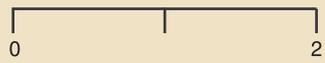
Not applicable, since the nominated area does not meet relevance and importance criteria for potential designation.

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MAP 7 CAMAS CREEK NOMINATED ACEC



Area of Interest



Scale in Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS

Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary.....
- Bureau of Land Management.....
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

CAMAS CREEK ACEC/RNA - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Camas Creek - 420 acres, including 1.5 miles of stream reaches

Nominated By: BLM, in response to recommendations made by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee

Location: See Map 7.

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: Sheer canyon walls protect a functioning riparian zone within a sagebrush steppe ecosystem.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Native redband trout, an Idaho priority species of special concern and a USFWS species of special concern, are becoming increasingly rare throughout their historic habitat range due to hybridization with introduced species (e.g., rainbow trout) and loss or degradation of their habitat. Native redband trout were reported to occur in Camas Creek (Williams, 1997). However, the IDFG has not confirmed the species' presence in Camas Creek (Partridge, 2001, personal communication). Because Camas Creek flows directly into Magic Reservoir, which is regularly stocked with hatchery rainbow trout, it is doubtful that <i>native</i> redband trout would occur in Camas Creek; any redbands found in Camas Creek would likely be hybridized with hatchery trout. [Note: If native redband trout are confirmed to be in Camas Creek in the future, the BLM is mandated by policy (BLM Manual Section 6840) to manage the habitat to protect the special status fisheries resource, even if the creek is not designated as an ACEC based on fisheries resource values. In addition, managing the creek to protect the riparian system will benefit the fisheries habitat.]	No
Natural System or Process: The riparian zone supports two distinct riparian communities and the adjacent uplands support an additional three terrestrial plant communities. The confluence of Camas Creek with Willow Creek supports a dense community of native cottonwoods. Additionally, the nominated area and adjacent areas are known to support camas milkvetch and bugleg goldenweed, both Idaho state sensitive species and species of concern to the USFWS, but without formal federal status.	Yes
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A

Importance (continued): Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	² Yes/ No or N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: The nominated reach of Camas Creek is unique in that it not only has visual and resource values seldom seen in southern Idaho, but it is also available for viewing by the public (from the rim) with easy access from U.S. Highway 20. However, this very access places the reach at risk without careful management and public education.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural Process or System: Undisturbed riparian areas are increasingly rare throughout the Snake River Plains. Camas Creek is a reference area that thus far has been protected from casual use and development by its sheer and/or boulder-strewn canyon walls. It is important to preserve these areas as a control for research and as a reference area for describing potential natural communities.	Yes
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC. The rationale for proposing the nominated Camas Creek ACEC for designation (under Alternative 2) as an ACEC/RNA is as follows:

The nominated ACEC meets relevance and importance criteria for scenic values and a natural (riparian) system. Overall, the unique scenic nature of this reach of Camas Creek, its inherent value as a riparian reference area, and its value as an example of an ecosystem supporting rare plants found only in this part of Idaho combine to establish the relevance and importance of Camas Creek as an ACEC and Research Natural Area (RNA).⁴

Scenic Values - Although several riparian/canyon environments exist within the Bennett Hills, this is the only one that is immediately accessible to the general public from a major highway. Its scenic value could easily entice both local and out-of-state visitors on their way to Sun Valley, the Sawtooth Mountains, and Craters of the Moon National Monument. Its accessibility also puts those same scenic values at risk, unless special management and public education actions are implemented.

Natural (Riparian) System - Low elevation riparian reference areas are exceedingly rare in southern Idaho and throughout the Snake River Plains. Camas Creek is one of a few examples of just such an area. While riparian areas are resilient to a point, after their native species are lost they may never be fully restored. Under the ever-increasing pressures of multiple uses, riparian areas become fragile systems that may require special management attention. Designating Camas Creek as an ACEC/RNA would preserve its integrity for use as a riparian reference area and control for scientific research and to provide the BLM a reference area against which to measure management success or failure in riparian areas with similar potential. The presence of two rare upland species of plants also contributes to the importance of this area as an example of a terrestrial ecosystem in southern Idaho.

If the nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria, list the relevant and important value(s) that need special management attention and describe the management prescriptions necessary to protect those values.

Scenic Values:

- (a) Designate and manage the ACEC as VRM Class II.⁵
- (b) **Note:** Many of the actions listed under “Natural System or Process” below would also help protect the unique scenic values in the nominated area.

Natural System or Process: The primary purpose for designating this reach of Camas Creek as an ACEC/RNA is because of its importance as a riparian reference area in southern Idaho and the Snake River Plains. The following actions would highlight and protect the Camas Creek riparian area. They would also have the indirect effect of protecting the identified scenic values.

- (a) Work with adjacent private landowners on coordinated riparian management.
- (b) Acquire private sections of the stream under a willing-seller basis or through exchange. Explore opportunities for conservation easements.
- (c) Close the ACEC to livestock grazing, except for sheep trailing (no overnight stays) within the wing fences of Macon Sheep Bridge. Wing fences will be built at the Macon Sheep Bridge to allow for sheep trailing through the Camas Creek area. Temporary management to prevent sheep grazing impacts will be required until the fences are built.
- (d) Implement actions to re-establish the potential natural community along the entire reach.
- (e) Seek to eliminate non-native invasive plant species.
- (f) Exclude the ACEC from new land use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits).
- (g) Stipulate the ACEC no-surface-occupancy for leasable mineral exploration and development, including seismic exploration. Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits.
- (h) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails.⁶
- (i) Develop a visitor information station/kiosk (and possibly a small picnic area) in the parking area overlooking the canyon (at the end of the county line road) to provide public awareness of the nature and fragility of the area and constrain casual use to that immediate area (rather than allowing such use to occur along the entire rim).

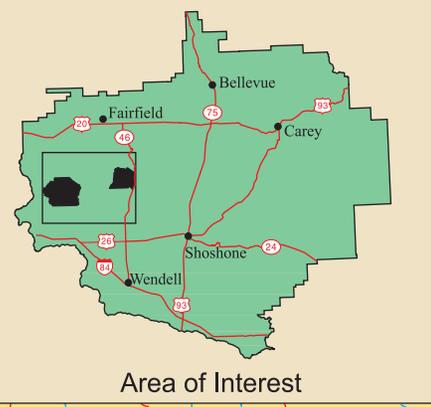
Rationale for not proposing the ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3):

Although the nominated Camas Creek ACEC meets relevance and importance criteria for scenic values and a natural (riparian) system, the BLM does not recommend this potential ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative for the following reasons:

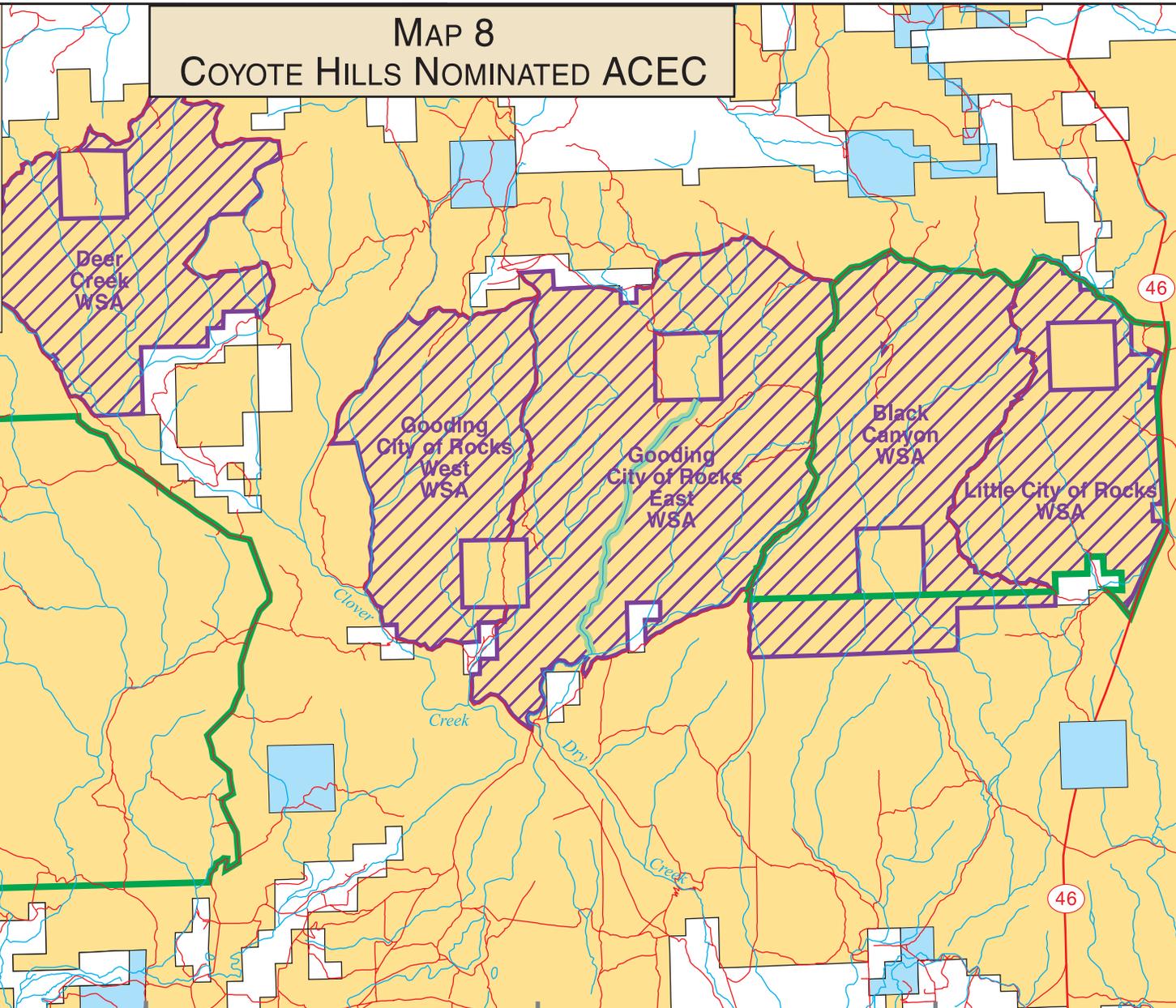
Scenic Values: The identified scenic values include the area’s sheer canyon walls and the functioning riparian zone. These scenic values are not in jeopardy under current planning guidance and management; no additional special management is needed to protect the scenic values. Highlighting the scenic resources through ACEC designation and the proposed management prescription (e.g., constructing a visitor station/kiosk and parking area) may, in fact, increase the risk of resource degradation.

Natural System or Process: Camas Creek’s riparian zone was identified as a relevant and important natural system. This riparian system is unique in a desert environment. However, this system is not in jeopardy under existing management. The sheer canyon walls form a natural barrier to many forms of disturbance that may otherwise occur in a riparian area (e.g., extensive livestock grazing), and existing management tools (such as implementing rangeland standards and guidelines) are sufficient to maintain and improve riparian conditions.

MAP 8 COYOTE HILLS NOMINATED ACEC



Land management actions would only apply to public lands administered by the BLM.



Map Legend	
	ACEC Boundary
	Bureau of Land Management
	Roads
	Private Lands
	Streams
	State Lands
	Wilderness Study Area
	Eligible for Wild and Scenic River Study

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 and 1:24,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

COYOTE HILLS ACEC - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Coyote Hills - 49,062 acres

Nominated By: BLM

Location: See Map 8.

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: The nominated area contains more than 100 sites with pictographs and petroglyphs that represent anthropomorphs, abstract geometric designs, and the occasional horse and rider. Sites may also include tools and artifacts useful in determining the age of the sites and their relationship to each other.	Yes
Scenic: No known significant scenic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Fish or Wildlife Resource: No known significant fish or wildlife resources occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural System or Process: No known significant natural systems or processes occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural: The identified cultural values are irreplaceable resources that are extremely fragile and subject to vandalism and illegal excavation. Numerous sites have already been severely damaged by looting activities. The unusual concentration of sites indicates a special significance to aboriginal populations that stopped here along their cyclical travels to and from the Camas Prairie.	Yes
Scenic:	N/A
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural System or Process:	N/A
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as an ACEC. The rationale for proposing the area as an ACEC (under Alternative 2) is as follows:

The nature and concentration of archaeological sites and rock art in the nominated areas indicates a unique affinity for this area by native aboriginal populations. The fragility of the sites suggests the need for special management to protect them

from looting and vandalism. Statistically, many sites within the nominated area remain undiscovered and/or uninterpreted. The Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP made a general statement about the potential National Register eligibility of the Little City of Rocks cultural resources.

Note: The eastern portion of the nominated Coyote Hills ACEC would have an overlapping designation, as this section lies entirely within the Black Rock and Little City of Rocks Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). If either or both of the WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness review in the future, any Coyote Hills ACEC designation or management action that is implemented through these plan amendments would continue to apply.

List the management prescription(s) necessary to maintain and protect each relevant and important value.

The proposed management prescription is to (a) protect the cultural resources and associated setting from destruction and loss and (b) allow for professional research. Management actions that would highlight and protect the Coyote Hills ACEC's cultural values include the following:

- (a) Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan which emphasizes National Register District nomination; curation of collections; limitations on any activity that may adversely impact cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; erosion control; and site stabilization.
- (b) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to the Bliss-Hill City Road and State Highway 46.
- (c) Limit motorized vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails.⁶
- (d) Permitting for professional research will follow the process outlined in BLM Manual 1851 for Cultural Resource Use Permits.

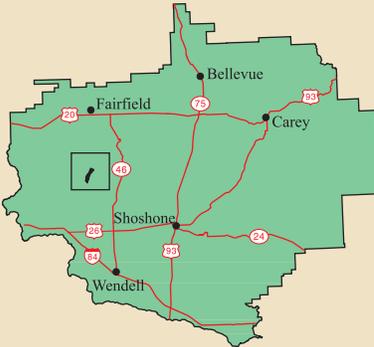
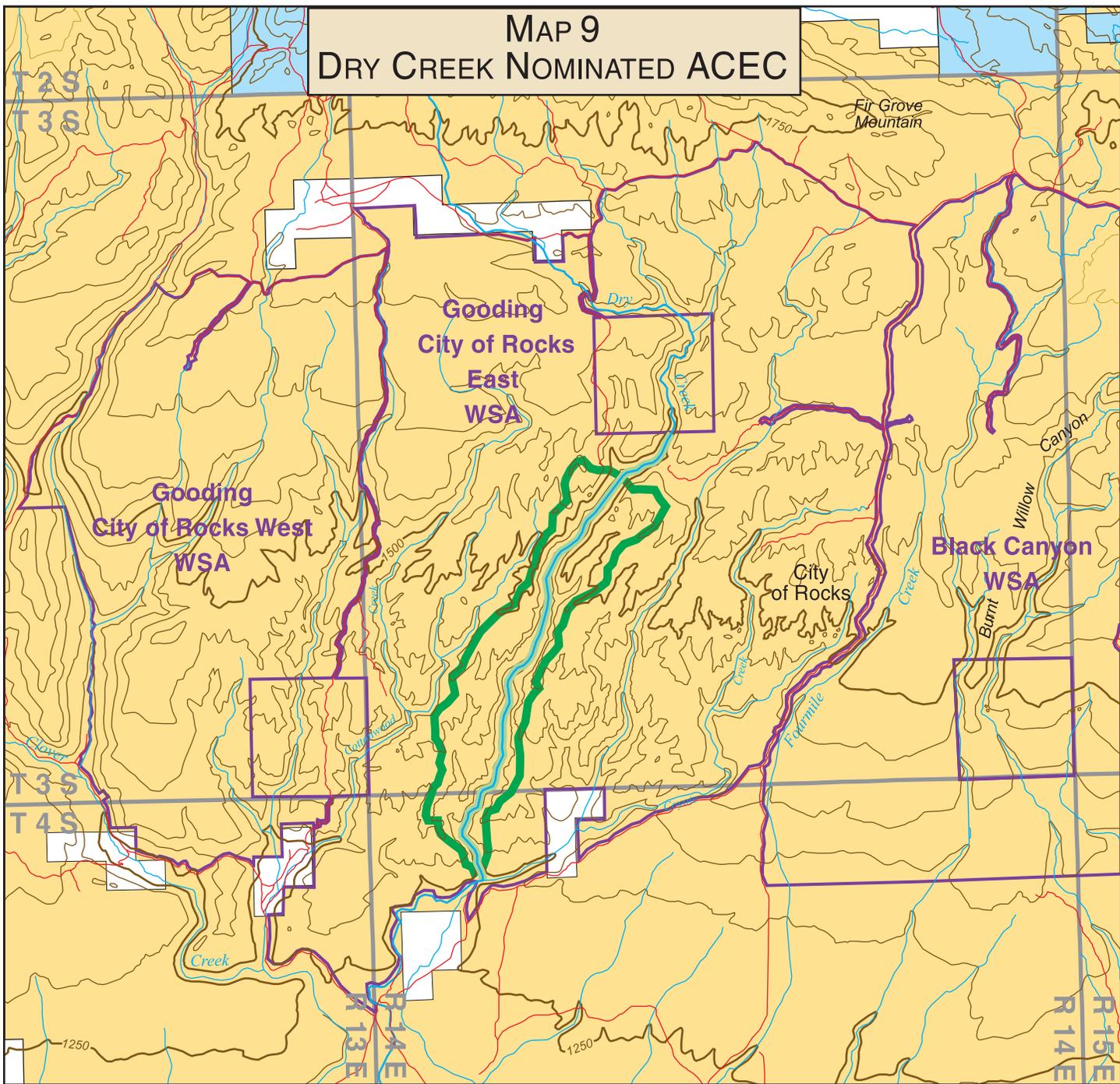
Rationale for not proposing the ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3):

Although the nominated Coyote Hills ACEC meets relevance and importance criteria for cultural values, the BLM does not recommend this potential ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative for the following reasons:

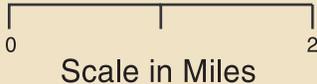
- A Cultural Resource Management Plan (activity plan) does not require an ACEC designation or other RMP action to be written and implemented.
- Cultural resources are protected under standard management provisions by law and regulation (e.g., the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979). ACEC designation is not required to highlight the Coyote Hills area for protective management.
- Highlighting the location of these cultural values through designation may draw increased attention to the resources, thereby increasing the risk of further vandalism and illegal excavation.

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MAP 9 DRY CREEK NOMINATED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....
- Wilderness Study Area.....
- Eligible for Wild and Scenic
- River Study.....

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

DRY CREEK ACEC/RNA - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Dry Creek - 869 acres, including 3.8 miles of stream reaches

Nominated By: BLM, in response to recommendations made by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee

Location: See Map 9

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: Dry Creek exhibits high visual quality because it is not easily accessible and therefore has received limited human disturbance (although there is nothing preventing a visitor from hiking to the creek from either the north or south, and one can drive very close to the southern access point). The local scenic values are worthy of recognition, in that it is unusual to see such a well-developed native riparian area in a desert environment. Dry Creek is identified as an eligible Wild and Scenic River (tentative classification of “wild”) based on its outstandingly remarkable scenic, ecological, and recreational values (USDI - BLM 1994). This section of Dry Creek also lies within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA, which is managed to prevent impairment of wilderness values (such as existing attributes of naturalness).	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Personal communications with Fred Partridge (lead fish biologist for IDFG in Jerome, Idaho) indicate that Interior redband trout, a BLM sensitive species and an Idaho priority species of special concern, have been verified in Dry Creek four miles downstream from the nominated reach (Partridge, 2001). However, the nominated reach is isolated from the confirmed population by a waterfall, and no redband trout have been confirmed in the nominated reach (Partridge, 2001). No fish can enter (or leave) through the north end of the nominated reach because of high water temperatures (a hot springs flows into the creek). Because no hatchery trout have been released into this segment, any redband trout occurring there <u>could</u> be assumed to be native (genetically pure) (Partridge, 2001). However, Williams, et.al. (1991) sampled 30 sites along Dry Creek and determined that redband trout populations in the creek are not genetically pure, but rather show some evidence of hybridization with hatchery rainbow trout. Even though the nominated segment is isolated due to geologic features, the stream habitat would not be suitable for native redband trout reintroduction unless it can be confirmed that no hybridized fish inhabit the reach. Because there is no confirmed presence of native redband trout in the nominated reach, and studies of redband populations in Dry Creek indicate some level of hybridization, the BLM does not find the fisheries resource to be a relevant value for ACEC designation. [Note: If native redband trout are confirmed to be in Dry Creek in the future, the BLM is mandated by policy (BLM Manual Section 6840) to manage the habitat to protect the special status fisheries resource, even if the creek is not designated as an ACEC based on fisheries resource values. In addition, managing the creek to protect the riparian system will benefit the fisheries habitat. The Shoshone Field Office has proposed a more significant stream (King Hill Creek) for ACEC designation in order to highlight protective management of the genetically pure Interior redband trout in that stream.]	No

[continued]

Relevance (continued): Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Fish or Wildlife Resource (continued): Mountain quail, a BLM sensitive species, is thought to have occurred in the Dry Creek drainage in the late 1970's. However, no confirmed sightings of the quail have been made during the past two decades (Smith, 2001) and a 1989 survey did not find quail to be present in the nominated area (Robertson, 1989). The nominated area's mountain quail habitat may be suitable for reintroduction of the quail. However, this area is within an estimated 10 miles of the eastern periphery of an extensive habitat range and has minimal significance on a regional level.	No
Natural Process or System: Dry Creek supports a near-pristine, fully functional, low elevation riparian system. The creek was identified as an eligible Wild and Scenic River (tentative classification of "wild") with outstandingly remarkable ecological values (BLM 1994).	Yes
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: The nominated reach of Dry Creek is unique in that it has visual and resource values seldom seen in southern Idaho. Because the area is difficult to access, the riparian area has been preserved in a near-pristine condition. The creek has regional (and possibly national) importance because it is eligible for further study as a Wild and Scenic River (based, in part, on outstandingly remarkable scenic values) and is contained within a Wilderness Study Area.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural Process or System: Pristine low elevation riparian areas are rare throughout the Intermountain West and are especially valuable as reference areas. Dry Creek is identified as an eligible Wild and Scenic River based, in part, on its outstandingly remarkable ecological values.	Yes
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as an ACEC. The rationale for proposing the area for ACEC/RNA designation (under Alternative 2) is as follows:

The nominated area meets relevance and importance criteria for scenic values and a natural (riparian) system.

Scenic Values: The local scenic values are worthy of recognition, in that it is unusual to see such a well-developed native riparian area in a desert environment. These scenic values were recognized as "outstandingly remarkable" in the BLM's Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility evaluation (USDI - BLM 1994). An ACEC designation would highlight the need to protect and manage those visual resources.

Natural (Riparian) System: Low elevation riparian reference areas are exceedingly rare in southern Idaho and throughout the Snake River Plains. Dry Creek is one of the few examples of just such an area. While riparian areas are

resilient to a point, after their native species are lost, they may never be fully restored. Under the ever-increasing pressures of multiple uses, riparian areas become fragile systems that require special management attention. Designation as an ACEC/RNA⁴ is proposed for Dry Creek in order to preserve its integrity for use as a riparian reference area and control for scientific research and to provide the BLM a reference area against which to measure management success or failure in riparian areas with similar potential.

Note: The Dry Creek ACEC/RNA would have overlapping designations, as the entire nominated area lies within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA and has been found eligible for further study for inclusion in the nationwide Wild and Scenic Rivers system. If, in the future, the WSA is released by Congress from wilderness review and/or the creek segment is found unsuitable for Wild and Scenic River designation (or not designated by Congress), any Dry Creek ACEC/RNA designation or management action that is implemented through these plan amendments would continue to apply.

If the nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria, list the relevant and important value(s) that need special management attention and describe the management prescription(s) necessary to protect those values.

Management actions that would highlight and protect the Dry Creek ACEC/RNA's scenic values and natural (riparian) system include the following:

Scenic Values:

- (a) Designate the ACEC as VRM Class I.⁵
- (b) **Note:** Many of the actions listed under "Natural (Riparian) System" below would also help protect the nominated area's unique scenic values.

Natural (Riparian) System: Specific actions to highlight management and protection of the riparian vegetation and watershed integrity in the Dry Creek ACEC/RNA include the following:

- (a) Close the area to livestock grazing.
- (b) Prevent noxious weed invasion by treating public lands adjacent to the ACEC and promptly treating existing and new weed infestations within the ACEC.
- (c) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits.
- (d) Designate the ACEC/RNA as "closed" to motorized vehicle use.⁶
- (e) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits).
- (f) Designate and manage the ACEC/RNA as VRM Class 1.
- (g) Only allow those vegetation manipulation or surface disturbing activities that will protect or enhance the near-pristine low elevation riparian plant community and/or the adjacent late seral upland plant communities.

Rationale for not proposing the ACEC/RNA for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3):

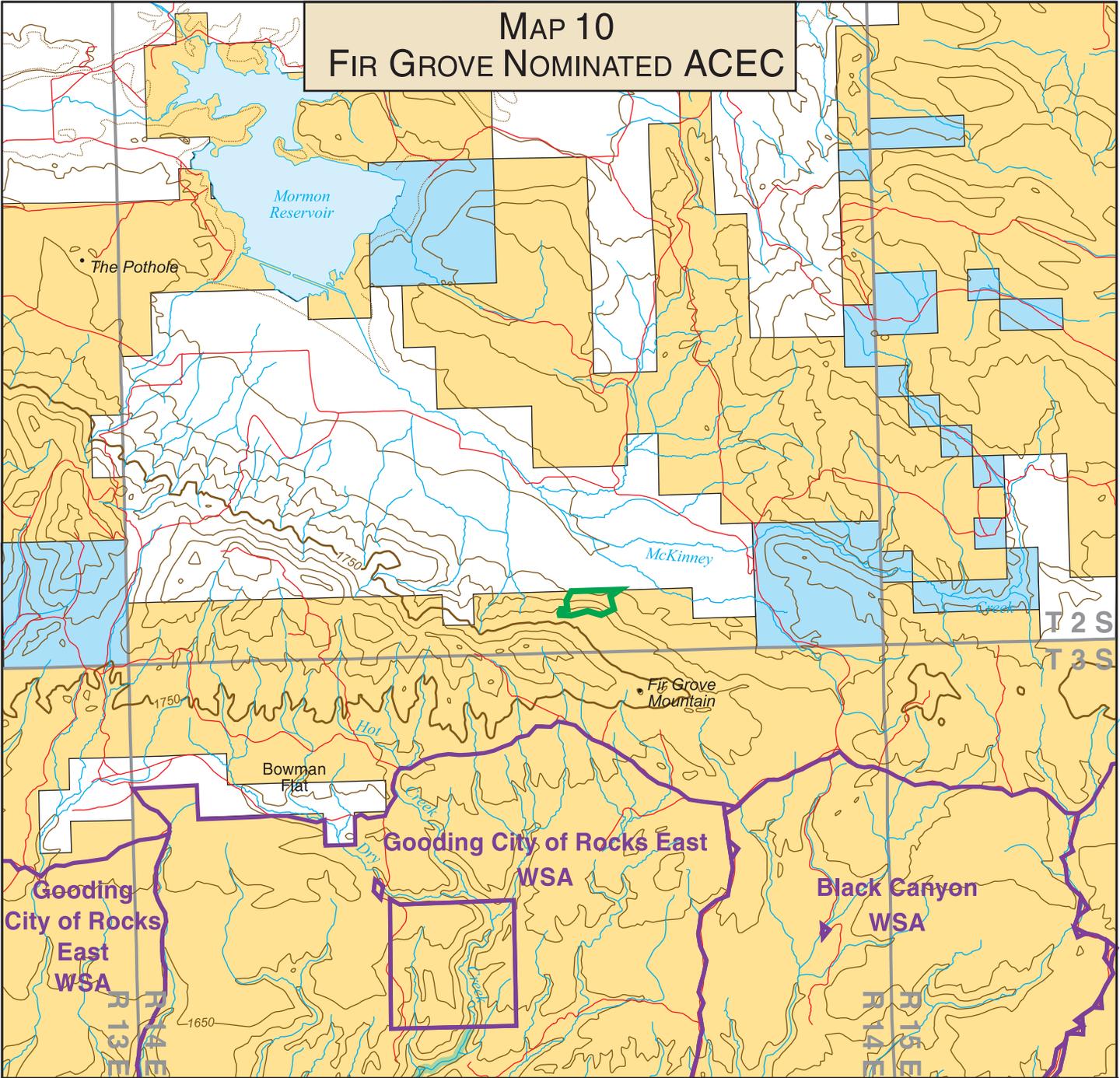
Although the nominated Dry Creek ACEC meets relevance and importance criteria for scenic values and a natural (riparian) system, the BLM does not recommend this potential ACEC for designation under the Preferred Alternative for the following reasons:

Scenic Values: The nominated ACEC's scenic values (the contrast between the riparian zone and surrounding desert environment) are not in jeopardy under current planning guidance and management, especially since the nominated area lies within a Wilderness Study Area and has also been found eligible for further study as a Wild and Scenic River. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers and designated Wilderness Study Areas shall be managed to protect the values which resulted in the river segment's eligibility determination and the WSA's designation. In the case of the Dry Creek ACEC area, this includes scenic resources. Because of the WSA designation, the area is under VRM Class I guidelines, where the objective is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans.

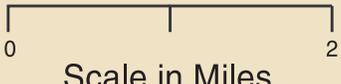
planning guidance and management. In addition, the sheer canyon walls form a natural barrier to many forms of disturbance that may otherwise occur in a riparian area (e.g., extensive livestock grazing or unauthorized off-highway vehicle use). No additional management attention in the form of ACEC designation is needed to protect the riparian area.

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MAP 10 FIR GROVE NOMINATED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary.....
- Bureau of Land Management.....
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....
- Wilderness Study Area.....
- Eligible for Wild and Scenic River Study.....

Base map information compiled from 1:24,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

FIR GROVE ACEC - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Fir Grove - 45 acres

Nominated By: The Nature Conservancy

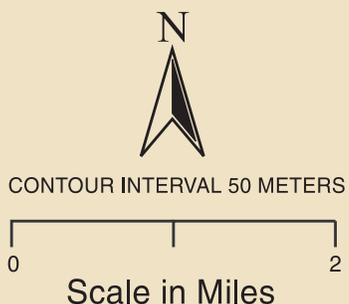
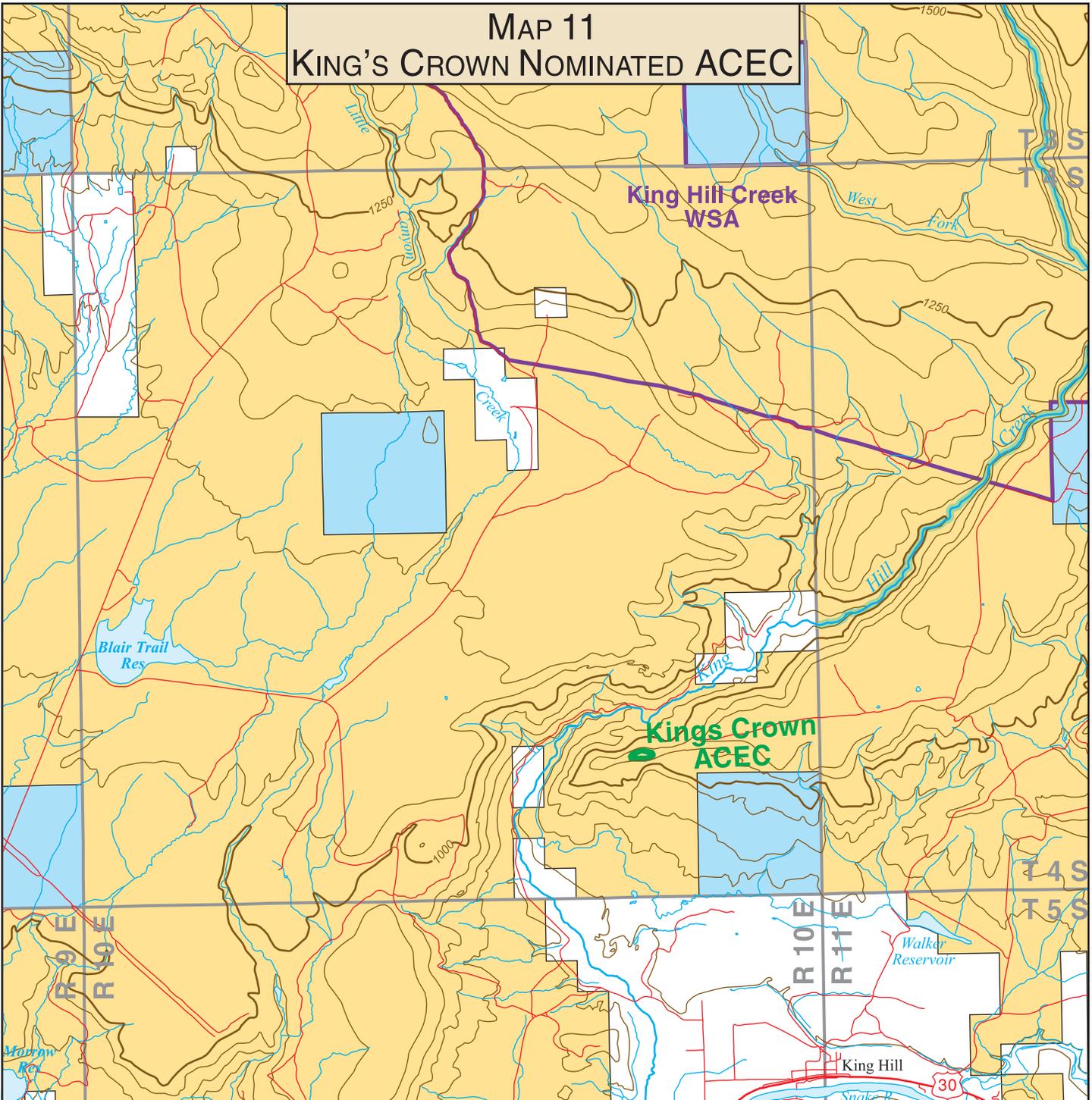
Location: See Map 10

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: No known significant scenic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Fish or Wildlife Resource: No known significant fish or wildlife resources occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural Process or System: The nominated site contains the only known stand of an isolated Douglas-fir community (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) south of Camas Creek in the Bennett Hills. Fire appears to be the only threat to this stand, and this risk is mitigated by the fact that (a) the stand lies on a north-facing slope, and (b) the site is identified for full fire suppression in the Shoshone Fire Management Plan. Additionally, Fir Grove is not part of the Upper Snake River District timber base and would therefore not be subject to timber harvest activities. Current management is sufficient to protect the values at this site. The stand is not deemed significant and does not require special management attention.	No
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic:	N/A
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural Process or System:	N/A
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC does not meet the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC.

No further assessment is required or will be conducted.

MAP 11 KING'S CROWN NOMINATED ACEC



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....
- Wilderness Study Area.....
- Eligible for Wild and Scenic
- River Study.....

Base map information compiled from 1:24,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

KING'S CROWN ACEC - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: King's Crown - 20 acres

Nominated By: The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Natural Heritage Program

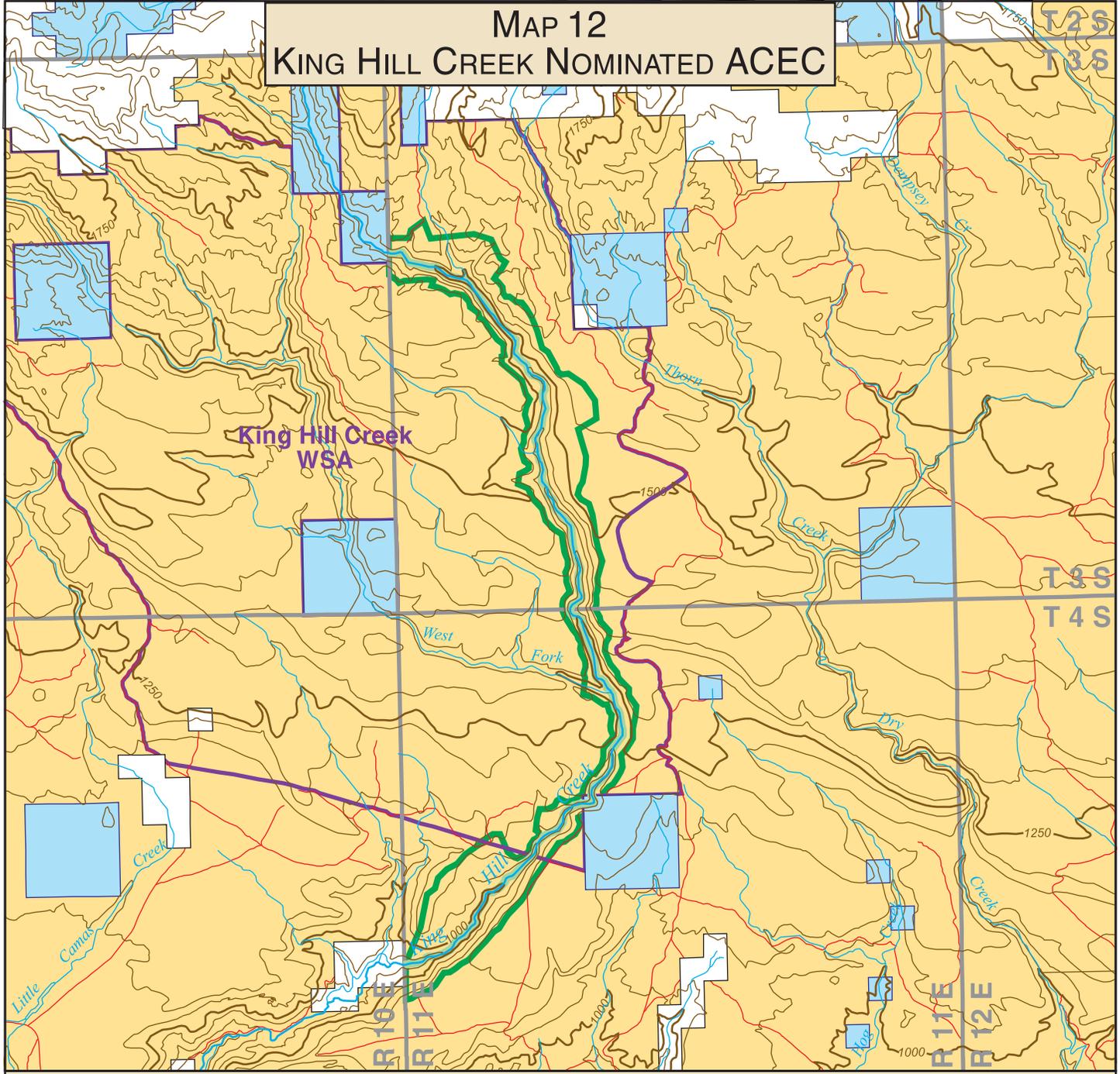
Location: See Map 11

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: No known significant scenic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Fish or Wildlife Resource: No known significant fish or wildlife resources occur in the nominated area.	No
Natural Process or System: The area is a prominent mesa in the King Hill area comprised of basaltic lava of the middle Pleistocene Bruneau formation. There is only one place where people can climb unaided onto the mesa. The site contains excellent examples of two undisturbed plant communities (Mosley, 1987). One of these plant communities is rare, while the other is common, although seldom seen in the climax or near climax successional phase found at this site.	Yes
Natural Hazard: No known significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic:	N/A
Fish or Wildlife Resource:	N/A
Natural Process or System: The natural system is not vulnerable to adverse change (Importance Factor #2), due to its inaccessibility by humans and livestock. Wildfire is the only known risk to the plant communities, and this risk is mitigated by the natural features of the mesa (which is surrounded by cliffs). If a wildfire occurred in the Kings Crown vicinity, the area is identified for full suppression in the Shoshone Field Office Fire Management Plan.	No
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC does not meet the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC.

No further assessment is required or will be conducted.

MAP 12 KING HILL CREEK NOMINATED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....
- Wilderness Study Area.....
- Eligible for Wild and Scenic
- River Study.....

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

KING HILL CREEK ACEC/RNA - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: King Hill Creek - 2,880 acres, including 10 miles of stream reaches

Nominated By: BLM

Location: See Map 12

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	¹Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: No known significant cultural values occur in the nominated area.	No
Scenic: King Hill Creek canyon is a vertical walled canyon that in places exceeds 650 feet deep. (Two “Statues of Liberty,” including the base, could be stacked on top of each other and not reach out of this canyon!) The stream itself is a thick green strip of vegetation which starkly contrasts with the brown rhyolite and black basalt of the canyon walls. In one location a stand of Douglas-fir rises from the wall of the upper canyon. King Hill Creek has been found eligible for further study as a Wild and Scenic River (tentative classification of “wild”) based, in part, on its outstandingly remarkable scenic values (USDI - BLM 1994).	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: <i>Fish:</i> Genetically pure native Interior redband trout, a BLM sensitive species and an Idaho priority species, are documented to occur in this reach of King Hill Creek (Partridge, 2001; and Williams, et. al., 1991). <i>Wildlife:</i> Mountain quail, also a BLM sensitive species and State priority species, were last documented to occur in this drainage in the late 1970's. However, no confirmed sightings of the quail have been made during the past two decades (Smith, 2001), and a 1989 survey did not find quail to be present in the nominated area (Robertson, 1989). The nominated area's mountain quail habitat is suitable for reintroduction of the quail, if no existing populations can be confirmed. However, this area is within an estimated 25 miles of the eastern periphery of an extensive habitat range and has minimal significance on a regional level.	Yes No
Natural System or Process: King Hill Creek represents a low elevation riparian system, 97% of which is properly functioning and approaching its potential natural community. This site is an important reference area for low elevation riparian systems which occur elsewhere within the Snake River Basin.	Yes
Natural Hazard: No significant natural hazards occur in the nominated area.	No
Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	²Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A

<p>Importance (continued): Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?</p>	<p>²Yes/ No or N/A</p>
<p>Cultural:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Scenic: The isolation and visual quality of the King Hill Creek canyon qualify the area as eligible for further study as a Wild and Scenic River with a tentative classification of "wild," based in part on the stream reach's outstandingly remarkable scenic values (USDI-BLM, 1994). The majority of the nominated ACEC also lies within the King Hill Creek Wilderness Study Area, which is managed to maintain wilderness values such as naturalness. In 1987 King Hill Creek was inventoried as Visual Resource Inventory Class II. Subsequent BLM policy defines all Wilderness Study Areas as Visual Resource Management Class I. (The management difference is that in VRM Class I areas no visible change is acceptable, while in Class II areas visible change may occur, as long as it does not attract attention.) These scenic values are important and appear to reach the level of regional or national importance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Fish or Wildlife Resource: <i>Fish:</i> The native redband trout found here are genetically pure and may represent an important source of this species for reintroduction into suitable habitats elsewhere (Williams et. al., 1991).</p> <p><i>Wildlife:</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Natural Process or System: Dry Creek (also nominated for ACEC designation) is the only other riparian system in the Shoshone Field Office area that approaches the isolation and pristine condition represented by King Hill Creek. This site is an important reference area for low elevation riparian systems which occur elsewhere within the Snake River Basin.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Natural Hazard:</p>	<p>N/A</p>

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC. The rationale for proposing the nominated ACEC for designation as an ACEC/RNA⁴ under all action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) is as follows:

The scenic values, fisheries resource, and natural riparian system meet the relevance and importance criteria.

[**Note:** The ACEC designation would include lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office (1,660 acres) as well as public lands managed by the Four Rivers Field Office, Lower Snake River District - BLM (1,220 acres). The ACEC designation would amend both the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP and the Jarbidge RMP. All of the ACEC/RNA would have overlapping designations. Most of the ACEC (approximately 80%) would lie within the King Hill Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA). In addition, the ACEC would include all 10 miles of the King Hill Creek stream segment found eligible for further study as a National Wild and Scenic River. If, in the future, the WSA is released by Congress from wilderness review and/or the creek segment is found unsuitable for Wild and Scenic River designation (or not designated by Congress), any King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA designation or management action that is implemented through these plan amendments would continue to apply.]

Scenic Values: The documented scenic values are more than locally significant. They are currently protected by virtue of the area's designation as a Wilderness Study Area and are, therefore, raised to a level of regional or national

importance. The stream reach was also found eligible for further study for potential addition to the nationwide Wild and Scenic Rivers system based on its outstandingly remarkable scenic values (USDI - BLM 1994).

Fisheries Resources: The presence of genetically pure native Interior redband trout, in and of itself, is sufficient to protect this area with an ACEC designation.

Natural System: The importance of riparian reference areas cannot be over-stressed. Such areas are very rare, and only the relative isolation of this reach of King Hill Creek has protected it from degradation to this point.

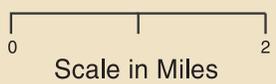
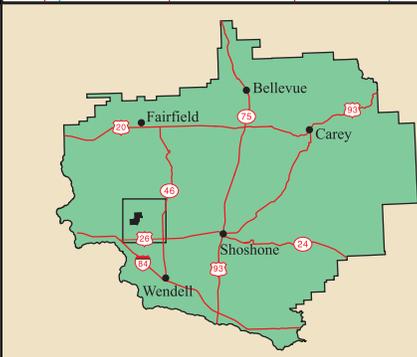
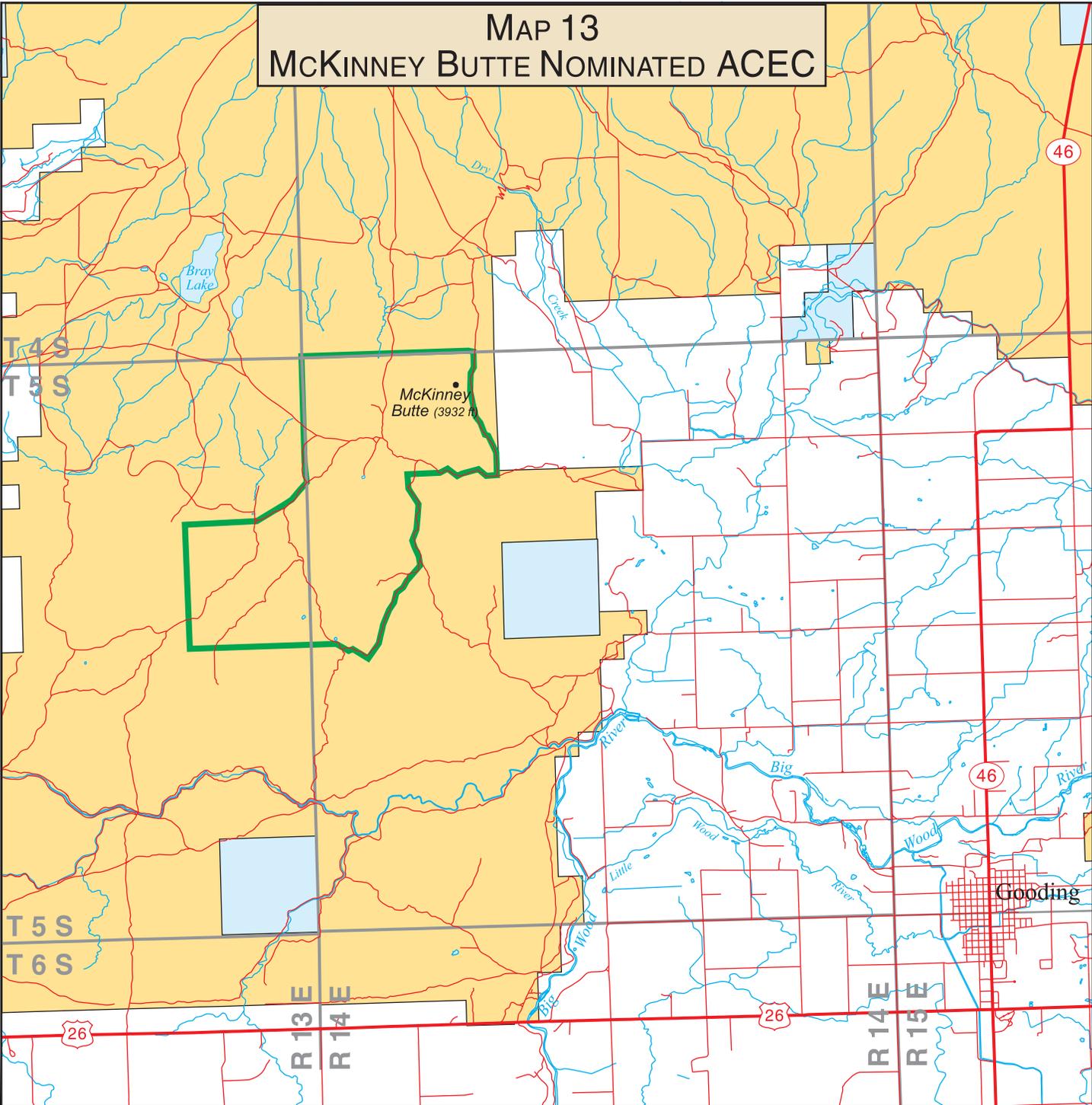
Rationale for not proposing the ACEC/RNA for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3): Not applicable, since the ACEC is proposed for designation under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

If the nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria, list the relevant and important value(s) that need special management attention and describe the management prescription(s) necessary to protect those values.

In order to preserve King Hill Creek's scenic resources, fisheries habitat, riparian vegetation, and watershed integrity in their pristine state, the BLM proposes the following management actions in addition to ACEC designation:

- (a) Close the area to livestock grazing.
- (b) Close all aquatic habitat in the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA to introduction of genetic strains of trout which are not native to the King Hill Creek watershed. Petition the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to prohibit the introduction of genetic strains of trout into King Hill Creek which are not native to the King Hill Creek watershed.
- (c) Prevent noxious weed invasion by treating public lands adjacent to the ACEC and promptly treating existing and new weed infestations within the ACEC.
- (d) Exclude the ACEC from new land use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way, R&PP Act leases, land use permits).
- (e) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits.
- (f) Designate the ACEC/RNA as "closed" to motorized vehicle use⁶.
- (g) Designate the ACEC as VRM Class I⁵.
- (h) Authorize only those actions which maintain or improve desirable habitat conditions for redband trout.

MAP 13 McKINNEY BUTTE NOMINATED ACEC



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

McKINNEY BUTTE ACEC/RNA - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: McKinney Butte - 3,764 acres

Nominated By: BLM

Location: See Map 13

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: The dry, cool environment of Idaho's caves is conducive to the preservation of archaeological materials, and many caves in Idaho show evidence of prehistoric use by aboriginal people, often for shelter or for storage. However, existing data do not support that there was extensive prehistoric use of the caves in the McKinney Butte area. Although cultural resources have been documented in the McKinney Butte area, the integrity of these resources has been severely compromised by years of unauthorized use (e.g. looting). Little remains of the archaeological record for this area.	No
Scenic: The nominated area contains 13 known caves with diverse and beautiful lava tube features. An abundance and variety of geological features, the varying character of passageways, and pristine environments contribute to the outstanding scenery in the caves. Specific features found in area caves include lava extrusions up to six feet tall, lava roses, lava stalactites and stalagmites, lava benches, lava bubbles, remelt features, skylight openings, and seasonal ice formations. Secondary mineral deposits of calcite, opal, gypsum, mirabilite, and iron contribute to the scenic quality found underground.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Significant hibernating bat populations of Western small-footed myotis (<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>) and Townsend's Western big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>), both BLM sensitive species, have been documented in several of the caves since 1987. At least one cave is suspected to be a maternity roost. A biological inventory of selected caves in the nominated ACEC area in 1999 and 2000 found a rich and diverse cave-adapted insect community. The inventory found some relatively widely distributed troglobitic (completing entire life cycle in caves) invertebrates in the caves, in addition to two undescribed species.	Yes
Natural Process or System: The McKinney Butte area and its caves represent the natural process of volcanism and lava tube formation (volcanospeleology). McKinney Butte is one of many volcanic shields from the late Pleistocene flows that cover the northern edge of the Snake River Plain in south central Idaho. These lava tube caves provide protection from outside elements, stable, low temperatures, and constant humidity levels, resulting in ideal conditions for the preservation of fossil remains. In addition, some lava blisters have been found to be carnivore traps, providing a rich accumulation of animal remains. Few paleontological inventories have been completed in the area, but random discoveries and isolated scientific excavations have documented extinct or extirpated species from the Pleistocene through the Holocene epochs in the caves.	Yes
Natural Hazard: All caves can be potentially dangerous to the unprepared visitor. However, the caves in and of themselves are not a natural hazard.	No

Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	² Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: Features found in several caves are unique to Idaho caves in their variety, abundance, and virtually undisturbed condition.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Nine of the 13 known caves in the nominated area list biota as one of the values they contain which contributed to their determination as significant caves. The relatively undisturbed nature of caves in the area has helped maintain the highly diverse number of cave-adapted animals. Some of the caves are used as a hibernaculum for significant numbers of Townsend's big-eared bats. Two species of undescribed troglobitic (completing entire life cycle in caves) invertebrates are present in the caves.	Yes
Natural Process or System: Features found in several caves are unique to Idaho caves in their variety, abundance, and virtually undisturbed condition. The area contains caves with multi-level passages, unusual temperature fluctuations, and other features rarely found in lava tube caves. One cave is characterized by an unusual, unclimbable pit entrance leading into a lava tube that begins about fifty feet below the surface. Another cave consists of one large room lit by a skylight with a side entrance passage. The constant cool, damp conditions on the floor of this cave have created a microsite which supports ferns and mosses. This kind of plant community would typically be found farther north in cool, wet forested areas. The plant community may possibly be a remnant from formally cooler times when such vegetation existed farther south in Idaho. The value of paleontologic resources in the central Snake River Plain caves is considered by experts to be significant. The only known fossil records from the central Snake River Plain are from lava tubes and pits. The high potential of finding paleontologic resources in the nominated caves increases their scientific and educational value.	Yes
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as an ACEC. The rationale for proposing the nominated McKinney Butte ACEC for designation as an ACEC/RNA⁴ under all action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) is as follows:

The nominated area meets relevance and importance criteria for scenic values, wildlife resources, and natural systems and processes.

Scenic Resources: Cave resources are fragile and easily degraded by intentional and unintentional abuse. A single careless act by a caver can destroy or degrade formations and mineral deposits. Geologic features found in several caves within the proposed McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA are unique to Idaho caves in their variety, abundance, and virtually undisturbed condition. One cave is characterized by an unusual, unclimbable pit entrance leading into a lava tube that begins about fifty feet below the surface. Another cave consists of one large room lit by a skylight with a side entrance passage. Other caves contain multilevel passages, extraordinarily large rooms, unusual temperature fluctuations, and other features rarely found in lava tube caves. The specific volcanic features of these caves, such as six-foot high lava

extrusions, lava stalactites and stalagmites, lava roses, lava bubbles, lava benches, remelt features, and seasonal ice formations, all contribute to the scenic experience when entering and exploring the caves.

Wildlife Resources: Many forms of biological life have been documented in the caves, including bats and numerous cave-adapted invertebrates. Significant hibernating populations of Townsend's Western big-eared bat (a BLM sensitive species) have been recorded in several caves since 1987. Recent winter inventories of bat hibernacula in this area have shown declines of 66% in hibernating bat populations compared to initial survey results. A decline in wintering bat numbers is occurring throughout the United States and in many areas around the world. Studies have shown a strong correlation between human disturbance of bat hibernacula and population decline. Stabilizing and increasing the populations of Townsend's Western big-eared bats which use the caves in the nominated area would help avert the potential need to list this bat species.

A recent inventory has found a rich and diverse invertebrate cave fauna in the area. The inventory efforts to present have found two species of invertebrates previously unknown to science. In addition, a cave ice beetle (*Glacivicola* sp.) previously thought to only occur in caves with ice, was collected in one of the caves in the McKinney Butte area which lacked the presence of ice. A more thorough and systematic inventory will likely provide additional information which will broaden and improve our understanding of the specific environmental needs of both lava tube cave troglobites and those organisms which use these caves to complete a portion of their life cycle requirements. The possible discovery of additional unknown animal species would be preserved.

Natural Systems and Processes: The combination of geologic and biologic features contained in the known caves within the proposed McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA area provide the opportunity to experience and observe examples of physical and biological processes which helped shape the environment. One of the caves contains an environment and plant community thought to be representative of conditions found in the area thousands of years ago. Many of the caves contain undisturbed examples of unusual, fragile geologic features associated with volcanic occurrences. Secondary mineral deposits, volcanic remelt features, multilevel passages, and ice formations all provide relatively undisturbed examples of the processes which have shaped the subsurface resource systems, values and processes.

Preliminary findings from a limited paleontological excavation conducted in 1999 in part of one cave in the McKinney Butte area found fossil remains of both camel and muskox. Identification of all the excavated mammalian fossil remains, especially the smaller animal species, has yet to be determined. This information will expand our scientific understanding of shifts in environmental conditions and animal assemblages which have occurred in the past. A more thorough investigation of this known site will likely reveal more fossil remains. The high potential of finding other paleontologic resources in caves located in the nominated ACEC area increases the caves' scientific and educational value.

Rationale for not proposing the ACEC/RNA for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3): Not applicable, since the ACEC is proposed for designation under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

If the nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria, list the relevant and important value(s) that need special management attention and list the management prescription(s) necessary to protect those values.

The scenic, biotic, geologic, and paleontologic values contained in the nominated McKinney Butte ACEC require special management consideration, emphasis, and protection beyond that provided by the existing land use plan or general regulations. The following actions would be implemented to help protect the significant resources and values contained in the McKinney Butte area:

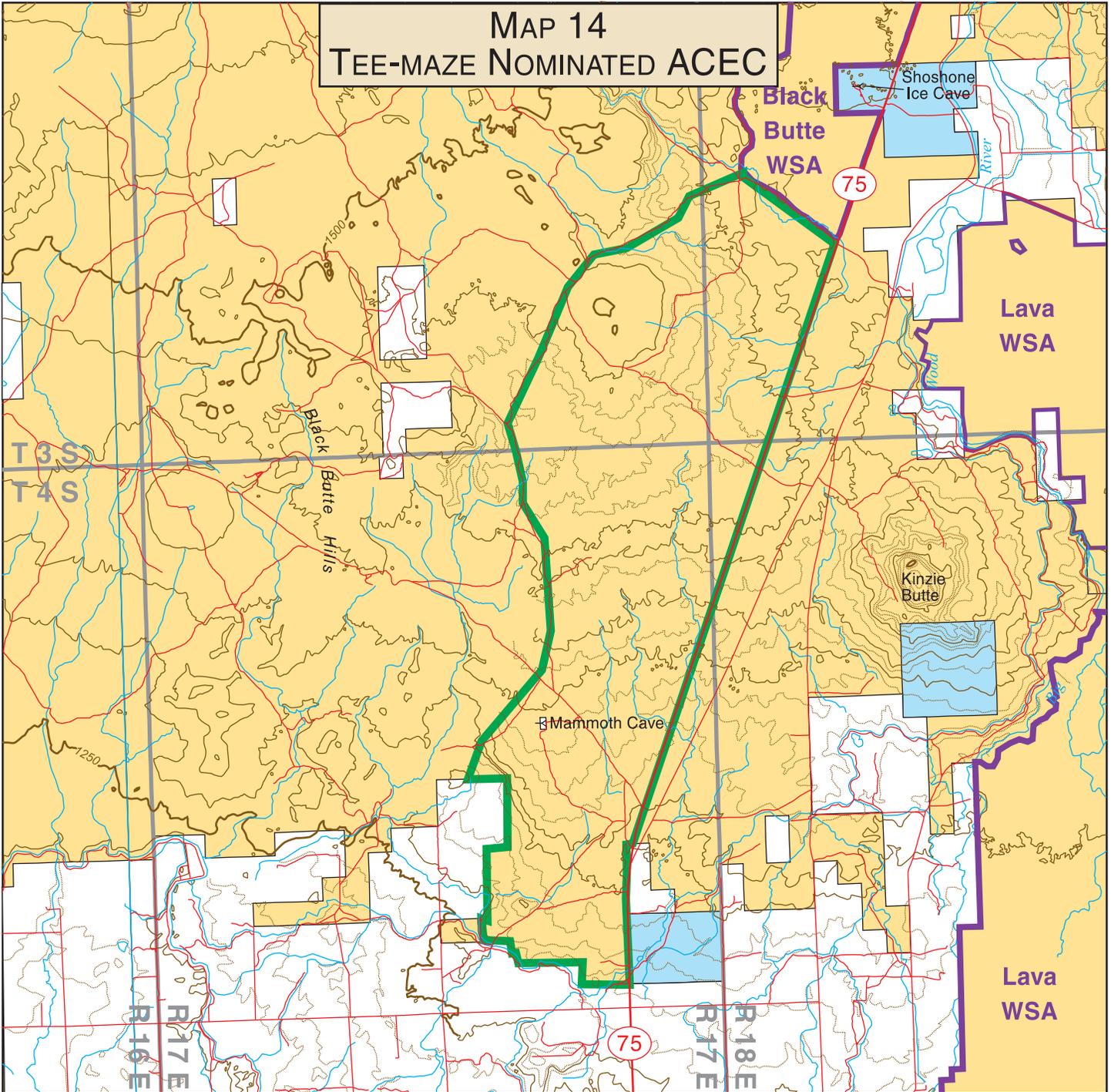
- (a) Designate the McKinney Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern as a Research Natural Area to protect significant subsurface resources and focus use of the area on research and education
- (b) Prepare an activity plan for the McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA. The plan will incorporate limitations on any activity that may adversely impact physical, biological, or cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; and

Limits of Acceptable Change concepts to protect cave resource values. The Limits of Acceptable Change will be cave-specific and developed in consultation with affected user groups.

- (c) Continue to follow the provisions and guidance stated in the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (USDI-BLM 1999). [Note: The plan directs monitoring of cave resources and impacts. It includes direction to conduct comprehensive inventories of each cave's physical and structural makeup and biological life. Where needed to protect cave resources, special management actions would be implemented such as surface vehicular closures, marking travel routes through caves, installing bat gates, and requiring permits for visitor use. Law enforcement and public education strategies and actions are also discussed.]
- (d) Restrict access to the cave(s) containing bats during winter hibernation periods (October 15 through May 1), except for approved research or BLM management actions. Prohibit access to caves which provide maternity roosts from June 1 through August 31.
- (e) Close the ACEC to mineral material sales and free use permits.
- (f) Limit vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails.⁶
- (g) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP leases, land use permits).
- (h) Designate a total of 13 caves in the McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA as significant.

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MAP 14 TEE-MAZE NOMINATED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS



Map Legend

- ACEC Boundary.....
- Roads or Trails.....
- Streams.....
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary.....
- Bureau of Land Management.....
- Private Lands.....
- State Lands.....
- Wilderness Study Area.....

Base map information compiled from 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Line Graphs. Land Status derived from BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base.

Even though every effort is made to depict the road network and other features as accurately as possible, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee road classification and/or positional accuracy of roads and other features in all cases. No warranty is made by the BLM for use of this data for purposes not intended by the BLM. The official land records should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

TEE-MAZE ACEC/RNA - CRITERIA REVIEW CHECKLIST

Nominated ACEC: Tee-Maze - 10,762 acres

Nominated By: BLM

Location: See Map 14

Relevance: Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?	Yes or No
Historic: No known significant historic values occur in the nominated area.	No
Cultural: The dry, cool environment of Idaho's caves is conducive to the preservation of archaeological materials, and many caves in Idaho show evidence of prehistoric use by aboriginal people, often for shelter or for storage. Although cultural resources have been documented in the Tee-Maze Caves area, the integrity of these resources has been severely compromised by years of unauthorized use (e.g. looting). Little remains of the archaeological record for this area.	No
Scenic: The area contains diverse and beautiful lava tube features in 12 known caves. One of the caves in the area is the second longest known and mapped cave in Idaho, at more than one and one-third miles long. Large rooms and passages, an abundance and variety of geological features, and pristine environments contribute to the outstanding scenic value of the caves in the nominated ACEC area. Specific features found in area caves include mineral deposits of calcite, opal, gypsum, mirabilite, and iron; lava extrusions; lava roses; driblet spires; stacked tubes; lava stalactites and stalagmites; lava benches; lava bubbles; remelt features; and seasonal ice formations.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Significant hibernating bat populations of Western small-footed myotis (<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>) and Townsend's Western big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>), both BLM sensitive species, have been documented in several of the caves since the 1970's. A biological inventory of selected caves in the nominated ACEC area in 1999 and 2000 found a rich and diverse cave-adapted insect community. The inventory found some relatively widely distributed troglobitic (completing entire life cycle in caves) invertebrates in the caves, in addition to four undescribed species.	Yes
Natural Process or System: The Tee-Maze area and its caves represent the natural process of volcanism and lava tube formation (volcanospeleology). The area is characterized by a late Pleistocene basaltic lava flow that is believed to have originated at a volcanic vent near the northeastern border of the nominated Tee-Maze ACEC area. These lava tube caves provide protection from outside elements, stable, low temperature, and constant humidity levels, resulting in ideal conditions for the preservation of fossil remains. In addition, some lava blisters have been found to be carnivore traps, providing a rich accumulation of animal remains. No systematic paleontological inventories have been completed in the nominated area, but random discoveries and isolated scientific excavations in other caves in the Snake River Plains area have documented extinct or extirpated species from the Pleistocene through the Holocene epochs.	Yes
Natural Hazard: All caves can be potentially dangerous to the unprepared visitor. However, the caves in and of themselves are not a natural hazard.	No

Importance: Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?	² Yes/ No or N/A
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: Caves in the area exhibit a number of attributes which offer unusually fine cave scenery. The high scenic quality of these caves is a result of varying cave passage dimensions, an abundance and variety of geological features, and a pristine environment. The surveyed length of some caves in the area exceeds 1.4 miles. One of the caves contains many outstanding examples of lava tube features including the largest collection of lava stalactites, stalagmites, and lava roses of any known cave in Idaho.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: Eleven of the 12 known caves in the area list biota as one of the values they contain which contributed to their determination as significant caves. The relatively undisturbed nature of caves in the area has helped maintain the highly diverse number of cave-adapted animals. Some of the caves are used as a hibernaculum for significant numbers of Townsend's big-eared bats. Four species of un-described troglobitic (completing entire life cycle in caves) invertebrates are present in the caves.	Yes
Natural Process or System: The abundance, variety and relatively pristine condition of many of the geologic features found in several caves in the area are unique to Idaho caves. One cave in particular contains many outstanding examples of lava tube features, including the largest collection of lava stalactites, stalagmites, and lava roses of any known cave in Idaho. Extrusion spires, hornitos, and concentric extrusion rings, seldom found even on the surface of new lava flows, are present in abundance in portions of this cave. Outstanding examples of secondary mineral deposits of gypsum, mirabilite, and thernadite are abundant on the cave walls and floor. The value of paleontologic resources in the central Snake River Plain caves is considered by experts to be significant. The only known fossil records from the central Snake River Plain are from lava tubes and pits. The high potential of finding paleontologic resources in caves located in the nominated area increases the scientific and educational value of the caves.	Yes
Natural Hazard:	N/A

The nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria to be considered as a potential ACEC. The rationale for proposing the nominated Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA⁴ for designation under all action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) is as follows:

The nominated area met relevance and importance criteria for scenic values, wildlife resources, and natural processes and systems.

Scenic Values: The specific scenic features found in area caves include lava extrusions, lava stalactites and stalagmites, linings and glaze, rafted blocks, lava ponds and tongues, levees and gutters, and seasonal ice formations. Secondary cave mineralization deposits occur in nearly every form known to caves, including stalactites and stalagmites, draperies, coraloids, helictites, rimstone, shelfstone, conulites, needles, and hair. Both primary and secondary formations are typically fragile and considered non-renewable, as the primary formations were created during active volcanism and the

latter were formed over the course of thousands of years. The abundance, variety, and relatively pristine condition of many of the geologic features found in several caves in the area are unique to Idaho caves.

Wildlife Resources: Many forms of biological life have been documented in the caves, including bats and numerous cave-adapted invertebrates. Significant hibernating populations of Townsend's Western big-eared bat have been recorded in several caves since the 1970's. Recent winter inventories have shown declines of nearly 75% in local hibernating bat populations compared with survey numbers obtained in the late 1980's. A decline in wintering bat numbers is occurring throughout the United States and in many areas around the world. Studies have shown a strong correlation between human disturbance of bat hibernacula and population decline. Stabilizing and increasing the populations of Townsend's Western big-eared bats which use the caves in the nominated area would help avert the potential need to list this bat species.

Biological inventories conducted to date have found a diverse assemblage of organisms utilizing the lava tube cave environment. This limited inventory effort has found four species of invertebrates previously unknown to science. A more thorough and systematic inventory will likely provide additional information which will broaden and improve our understanding of the specific environmental needs of both lava tube cave troglobites and those organisms which use these caves to complete a portion of their life cycle requirements. The possible discovery of additional unknown animal species would be preserved.

Natural Systems and Processes: A partial listing of fossil remains found in lava tube caves on the Snake River Plain includes camel, mammoth, bison, grizzly bear, short-faced bear, dire wolf, lemming, muskox, kit fox, black-footed ferret, wolverine, pine marten, and lynx. New paleontological information could expand our current scientific understanding of shifts in environmental conditions and animal assemblages which have occurred in the past. The high potential of finding paleontologic resources in caves located in the Tee-Maze ACEC area increases the scientific and educational value of the caves.

Rationale for not proposing the ACEC/RNA for designation under the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3): Not applicable, since the ACEC is proposed for designation under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

If the nominated ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria, list the relevant and important value(s) that need special management attention and list the management prescription(s) necessary to protect those values.

The scenic, biotic, geologic, and paleontologic values contained in the nominated Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA require special management consideration, emphasis, and protection beyond that provided by the land use plan or general regulations. The following actions would be implemented to help protect the significant resources and values contained in the Tee-Maze area:

- (a) Designate the Tee-Maze Area of Critical Environmental Concern as a Research Natural Area to protect significant subsurface resources and focus use of the area on research and education
- (b) Prepare an activity plan for the Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA. The plan will incorporate limitations on any activity that may adversely impact physical, biological, or cultural resources; fire suppression guidelines; annual reporting procedures; physical protection measures; regulatory and/or interpretive signs; law enforcement; and Limits of Acceptable Change concepts to protect cave resource values. The Limits of Acceptable Change will be cave-specific and developed in consultation with affected user groups.
- (c) Continue to follow the provisions and guidance stated in the Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan (BLM 1999). [**Note:** The plan directs monitoring of cave resources and impacts. It includes direction to conduct comprehensive inventories of each caves' physical and structural makeup and biological life. Where needed to protect cave resources, special management actions would be implemented such as surface vehicular closures, marking travel routes through caves, installing bat gates, and permitted visitor use. Law enforcement and public education strategies and actions are also discussed.]

- (d) Restrict access to the cave(s) containing bats during winter hibernation periods (October 15 through May 1), except for approved research or BLM management actions. Prohibit access to caves which provide maternity roots from June 1 through August 31.
- (e) Limit mineral material sales and free use permits to existing sites and public lands adjacent to State Highway 75.
- (f) Limit vehicle use to designated and signed roads and trails, except for allowing (1) the existing stackable blocky lava permit holder to continue to have cross-country access to his permitted area for the duration of his permit, and (2) allowing cross-country access within the Mammoth Cave Common Use Area.⁶
- (g) Do not allow new land use authorizations (e.g., rights of way, R&PP leases, land use permits).
- (h) Designate a total of 12 caves in the Tee Maze ACEC/RNA as significant.

Appendix 4 - Demographic Information

Part A: Population Information

(County and City Population Census Data for Selected Counties and Cities within the Region of Influence to the Planning Area)

<i>County</i> City	Population - 2000 Census	% Population in Cities ³	% Change from 1990-2000	% Change from 1980-2000	% Change from 1920-2000
<i>Blaine</i> ¹	17,326	75	+40	+93	+387
Bellevue	1,876				
Carey	513				
Hailey	6,200				
Ketchum	3,003				
Sun Valley	1,427				
<i>Camas</i> ¹	865	46	+36	+6	-50
Fairfield	395				
<i>Elmore</i>	29,130	47	+37	+35	+573
<i>Gooding</i> ¹	13,743	48	+22	+16	+82
Bliss	275				
Gooding	3,384				
Hagerman	656				
Wendell	2,338				
<i>Jerome</i> ¹	18,110	49	+21	+22	+316
Eden	411				
Hazelton	687				
Jerome	7,780				

<i>County</i> City	Population - 2000 Census	% Population in Cities ³	% Change from 1990-2000	% Change from 1980-2000	% Change from 1920-2000
<i>Lincoln</i> ¹	3,839	51	+22	+12	+11
Dietrich	150				
Richfield	412				
Shoshone	1,398				
<i>Minidoka</i>	20,174	51	+4	+2	+223
<i>Twin Falls</i> ²	64,284	69	+20	+21	+226
Twin Falls ²	34,469				
<i>Ada</i> ²	300,904	78	+46	+74	+855
Boise ²	185,787				

Note: Idaho’s population in 2000 was 1,293,953. The state’s population is projected to increase to 1,622,000 in 2015 (a 25% increase from the 2000 population) and to 1,739,000 by 2025 (a 34% increase from the 2000 population).

- ¹ Percent population growth for the five major counties in the planning area (Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln) since 1920 is 235%, and since 1980 is 35%.
- ² Population statistics for Ada and Twin Falls counties and the cities of Boise and Twin Falls are included for information purposes only, because those population centers have a major impact on the planning area.
- ³ Population identified as living within one of the listed cities; “percent in cities” is calculated by dividing the sum of a city’s population by the total population of the county. Cities listed are all of the cities within the specified county, with the exception of Twin Falls and Ada counties, where only the cities of Twin Falls and Boise are listed. No cities are listed for Elmore or Minidoka counties because those counties comprise only a small portion of the planning area.

Sources:

Population of Idaho and Idaho Counties by Decennial Census, 1900-1990, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of Census, Washington, D.C., 20233.

State and County QuickFacts, Idaho and Selected Counties, 2000, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233.

Population Estimates Program, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Washington, D.C.

www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjpop.txt (Population Projections of the States: 1995-2025)

Part B: Median Income and Area Information

County	Median Household Income ²	Area (square miles)	Persons/square mile
Ada ¹	\$43,321	1,055	285.2
Blaine	\$45,504	2,645	7.2
Camas	\$35,445	1,075	0.9
Elmore	\$32,486	3,078	9.5
Gooding	\$28,957	731	19.4
Jerome	\$30,938	600	30.6
Lincoln	\$30,036	1,206	3.4
Minidoka	\$30,598	760	26.5
Twin Falls ¹	\$32,169	1,925	33.4
State of Idaho	\$33,612	82,747	15.6

¹ Statistics for Ada and Twin Falls counties are included for information purposes only, because those population centers have a major impact on the planning area.

² Median household income represents the mid-point or mid-range of household income - i.e., half of the population's annual household income is above the median income and half is below the median income.

Note: Blaine County has the highest median household income for the State of Idaho, and Gooding County has one of the lowest median household incomes.

Source:

Median household income is from the 1997 Model-Based Estimate Data, State and County QuickFacts, Idaho and Selected Counties. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Washington, D.C.

Appendix 5

Shoshone Field Office FY2000 Recreation Data from Recreation Management Information System (RMIS)

	<u>Visitor Days¹ in 2000</u>
Wood River Valley	337,966
Bennett Hills (West Side)	126,407
Magic Reservoir	134,989
Monument (East Side)	285,443
Snake River Rim	15,760
Total	900,565

¹ A visitor day is equivalent to twelve visitor hours. It is calculated by dividing recorded visitor hours by 12.

Note: It is estimated another 435,000 persons travel through the Shoshone Field Office area annually, enroute to other destinations outside the planning area (McLaughlin, et. al., 2001)

Appendix 6

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) Lands (Disposal Lands as of July 25, 2000)

Alternative 1: All of the lands listed in this appendix (approximately 49,972.86 acres) were identified for potential disposal in the Shoshone Field Office's existing land use plans as of July 25, 2000, and would be therefore be available for potential disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. This appendix provides a legal description of the disposal tracts; the approximate location of these tracts is displayed on Map 2. [**Note:** The lands identified in this appendix are the *only* public lands that can be considered for potential disposal under existing management. Some lands identified as of July 25, 2000 are no longer available for disposal and are therefore not included on this list (e.g., lands within the recently expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument)]

Alternatives 2, 3, and 4: Only those lands shown in standard type in this appendix (approximately 45,739.09 acres) would be available for potential disposal under the provisions of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. Those tracts identified in **bold type and with an asterisk (*)** do not meet the plan amendments' disposal criteria (see Appendix 1) and are being retained in public ownership. [**Note:** The lands identified in standard type in this appendix are not the only public lands that could be considered for disposal under these plan amendments (Alternatives 2, 3, or 4). However, these are the only lands that could be disposed of under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.]

T. 9 S., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian

Section 14: SE, N2SW (portion N of I-84), S2NE, S2S2NW, NWSWNW, SWNESWNW, ***S2SW**
(*portion S of I-84, approx 50 acres +/-)
Section 15: SW, NESE, NWSE, E2SWSE, SENE, S2SWNE, S2S2NW, W2SWNW, NWSWNW,
W2SWSENW, ***E2SESE, *E2W2SESE**
Section 20: N2SE
Section 21: S2, NE, E2NW, SWNW
Section 22: W2, W2SWSE, W2E2SWSE
Section 28: NENW, N2NE, SENE

Containing Approximately 2,032.50 acres

Drop from consideration:

Approximately 75 acres

T. 9 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian

Section 16: NENE
Section 34: SWNW, N2SW Portions south of Interstate 84

Containing Approximately 160 acres

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.**

T. 9 S., R. 19 E., Boise Meridian
Section 10: SWNW, W2SW
Section 11: S2NWSE, S2NESW, S2S2SWSW
Section 12: W2SESWSE
Section 20: S2SW
Section 25: W2W2NW
Section 26: E2SENE
Section 29: N2NW
Section 30: Lot 1 (21.50), NENW
Containing Approximately 456.50 acres

T. 9 S., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian
Section 8: Lots 2 (10.02), 3 (30.07), S2SW, W2SE
Section 24: S2SE
Section 25: N2NE, NENW, S2NW, NWSE
Section 35: S2SE
Containing Approximately 600.09 acres

T. 9 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian
Section 19: Lot 4 (41.55), SWNE, SESW, E2NESW, E2W2NESW
Containing Approximately 151.55 acres

T. 8 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian
Section 30: SENW
Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 8 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian
Section 3: S2, S2N2
Section 4: SE
Section 5: SENE
Section 10: N2NW
Section 11: S2SE
Section 12: E2NW, W2SW
Section 21: E2NW
Section 24: SENE
Section 27: W2W2, E2SW
Section 28: E2NW, NESW
Section 32: SWSE, portion of NWSE (20 ac.)
Containing Approximately 1,540 acres

T. 8 S., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian
Section 4: S2S2
Section 8: NE
Section 19: Lots 2 (43.61), 3 (43.63), 4 (43.65), SENW, SESE
Section 20: SW, S2NW
Containing Approximately 770.89 acres

T. 7 S., R. 23 E., Boise Meridian
Section 5: Lot 3 (25.97), SENW

Containing Approximately 65.97 acres

T. 7 S., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian
Section 26: N2, SW
Section 27: ALL
Section 28: ALL
Section 33: NE
Section 34: ALL
Section 35: ALL

Containing Approximately 3,200 acres

T. 7 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian
Section 3: Lots 1 (19.95), 2 (20.05), 3 (20.15), 4 (20.25), S2N2, S2
Section 4: Lots 1 (20.28), 2 (20.26), S2NE, N2SE
Section 6: Lot 7 (41.30)
Section 10: ALL
Section 11: S2
Section 12: S2SW
Section 13: N2NW
Section 14: ALL
Section 23: N2, N2S2
Section 33: S2
Section 34: S2S2, NWNW

Containing Approximately 3,562.24 acres

T. 7 S., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian
Section 1: SESE

Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 7 S., R. 19 E., Boise Meridian
Section 2: Lot 2 (19.39), SWNE

Containing Approximately 59.39 acres

T. 7 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian
Section 8: *S2, *S2NE, *SEnw
Section 10: SENW, SWNE, N2SE, NESW, *SWNW
Section 11: NWSW
Section 34: SW

Containing Approximately 880 acres

***Drop from consideration: Approximately 480 acres**

T. 7 S. R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
Section 9: SE, S2NE
Section 14: NWSW

Containing Approximately 280 acres

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.**

T. 7 S., R., 14 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 3: S2SW
 Containing Approximately 80 acres

T. 6 S., R. 13 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 14: NWNE
 Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 6 S., R. 15 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 12: SESW
 Section 13: E2NW
 Section 20: SENE, N2SE, SESE
 Section 21: SW, N2SE, SESE
 Section 22: N2SW, SWSW
 Containing Approximately 680 acres

T. 6 S., R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 5: Lots 2 (47.89), 3 (48.19), 4 (48.51)
 Containing Approximately 144.59 acres

T. 6 S., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 2: W2SWSW
 Section 12: Portion of Lot 3 (5.0 +/-)
 Containing Approximately 25 acres

T. 6 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 4: W2SE
 Section 8: Portions south of road in N2SW, NWSE, and S2SE (160 +/-)
 Section 9: Portion south of road in SWSWSW (5 +/-)
 Section 11: NESW
 Section 21: NWNE
 Containing Approximately 365 acres

T. 6 S., R. 19 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 8: E2NW, W2NE, NENE
 Section 9: N2NE
 Section 11: NENE
 Section 15: SWNW
 Section 22: NWNE
 Containing Approximately 400 acres

T. 6 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 17: E2NE, NESE
 Section 19: Lots 6 (40.00), 7 (40.00), 8 (40.00), 9 (16.21), 10 (16.28), 11 (40.00), 12 (40.00), S2NE, N2SE
 Section 20: NENW, S2NW, N2SW, E2SE
 Section 28: S2
 Section 29: E2E2, NESW
 Section 30: Lots 2 (40.00), 3 (16.35)
 Section 31: SENE, E2SE
 Section 32: S2, S2NW, NENW
 Section 35: SENW, E2SW
 Containing Approximately 2,048.84 acres

T. 6 S., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian

Section 26: E2SE, SW
 Section 29: N2SW, SWSW
 Section 30: Lot 6 (40.00), S2NE, SE
 Section 33: Lots 1 (43.22), 2 (43.12), N2SE
 Section 35: Lots 1 (43.96), 3 (43.96), 4 (43.94), NW, E2NE, NESE, N2SW
 Containing Approximately 1,298.20 acres

T. 6 S., R. 23 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 28: E2NW, S2NE, NWNE, W2NENE, SWSE
 Section 34: E2
 Section 35: NW, S2NE, N2S2, SWSW
 Containing Approximately 1,020 acres

T. 6 S., R. 24 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 31: SESE
 Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 5 S., R. 12 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 2: E2SE
 Section 34: SESE
 Containing Approximately 120 acres

T. 5 S., R. 13 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 3: SWSW
 Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 5 S., R. 15 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 1: Lot 2 (40.35), SWNE
 Section 4: NWSW, NWSW
 Section 13: SWNW
 Section 14: SENE
 Section 21: SESE
 Section 22: S2NW, SWNE, W2SE, SW
 Section 23: E2E2, SWSE, S2SW
 Section 24: W2W2, *E2, *E2W2
 Section 25: S2NW, *N2NW
 Section 26: N2NW, SENW, NE, N2SE, NESW
 Section 27: NW, N2NE, SWNE, NWSW
 Section 28: E2NE, SE, E2SW
 Section 33: NW, N2NE, SWNE
 Containing Approximately 3,040.35 acres
***Drop from consideration: Approximately 560 acres**

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 only)**

T. 5 S., R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 13: NENE
 Section 18: **Lots *3 (38.76), *4 (38.81), *E2SW**
 Section 19: **Lots *1 (38.90), *2 (39.03), *3 (39.15), *4 (39.28), *E2W2, *E2**
 Section 32: W2NW, NESW, S2NE, SE, E2SW
 Containing Approximately 1,273.93 acres
***Drop from consideration: Approximately 793.93 acres**

T. 5 S., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 15: SWNW
 Section 18: Lot 1 (46.04), NENW
 Containing Approximately 126.04 acres

T. 5 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 33: Portion of S2SW (55+/-)
 Section 34: NWSW, SESW
 Containing Approximately 135 acres

T. 4 S., R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 25: SWSW
 Section 28: NENE, NESW
 Section 30: NWSE, NESW
 Containing Approximately 200 acres

T. 4 S., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 28: W2SW
 Containing Approximately 80 acres

T. 4 S., R. 19 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 25: Lot 5 (41.04)
 Containing Approximately 41.04 acres

T. 4 S., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 17: SENE
 Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 3 S., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 29: Lot 1 (40.64), NWNE
 Containing Approximately 80.64 acres

T. 2 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 31: Lot 1 (40.52)
 Containing Approximately 40.52 acres

T. 2 S., R. 25 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 7: ***NENE**
 Containing Approximately 40 acres+
***Drop from consideration: Approximately 40 acres**

+Note: Even though this tract is identified for disposal in the existing land use plan, it can no longer be considered for disposal because the lands lie within the recently expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument.

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 only)**

T. 1 S., Range 25 E., Boise Meridian

Section 30: **Lots *5 (south half 20.00), *9 (18.24)**

Section 31: **Lots *1 (40.00), *2 (40.00), *3 (18.33), *4 (18.36), *5 (40.00), *6 (40.00)**
Containing Approximately 234.93 acres+

***Drop from consideration: Approximately 234.93 acres**

+**Note:** Even though these tracts are identified for disposal in the existing land use plan, they can no longer be considered for disposal because the lands lie within the recently expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument.

T. 1 S., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian

Section 4: Lots 1 (46.07), 2 (46.24), 3 (46.41), 4 (46.58), SESE

Section 5: Lot 1 (47.05)

Section 17: W2W2, NENW

Section 18: Lots 1 (45.44), 2 (45.44), SENW, S2NE, N2SE, SESE, NESW

Containing Approximately 843.23 acres

T. 1 S., R. 12 E., Boise Meridian

Section 5: Lots 2 (26.64), 3 (26.54), 4 (26.44), SENW

Section 6: Lots 1 (26.34), 2 (26.13), 3 (26.04), 4 (26.74), 5 (38.67), SENW, S2NE, SE, E2SW

Section 7: N2NE

Containing Approximately 703.54 acres

T. 1 S., R. 11 E., Boise Meridian

Section 1: Lot 4 (24.36), SWNW

Section 2: Lots 1 (23.90), 2 (23.49), 3 (23.09), 4 (22.68), S2NW, N2SW, NESE

Section 8: E2E2, SWSE

Section 9: W2W2

Section 16: E2SE, NWSE, N2SW

Section 17: N2, N2S2

Section 18: Lots 1 (35.90), 2 (35.79), E2NW, W2NE, SENE, N2SE

Section 21: E2NE, NESE

Section 22: N2S2, SESE

Section 27: E2NE

Containing Approximately 2,149.21 acres

T. 1 S., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian

Section 35: SENW, SWNE, NWSE, NESW, S2SW

Containing Approximately 240 acres

T. 1 N., R. 23 E., Boise Meridian

Section 6: Lot 7 (41.33), E2SW

Containing Approximately 121.33 acres

T. 1 N., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian

Section 1: Lots 1 (40.03), 2 (40.10), 3 (40.16), SWNE

Section 19: Lots 1 (37.81), 2 (38.00), SENW

Containing Approximately 276.10 acres

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 only)**

T. 1 N., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian

Section 11: NWSW
Section 12: Lot 3 (46.86)
Section 18: SE, SESW
Section 19: N2NE, SENE, NESE
Section 20: Lot 3 (29.19), NESW, E2SE, SWSE
Section 21: SWNE, W2SE
Section 24: Lot 2 (43.36), W2SW
Section 28: S2NW, SWNE, W2SE, SESE, SW
Section 29: Lots 1 (29.36), 2 (29.49), 3 (29.61), E2NW, W2NE, SENE, N2SE, SESE, NESW
Section 32: Lot 2 (29.86), NENW, NENE
Section 33: Lots 1 (39.73), 2 (39.20), 3 (38.66), 4 (38.13), N2NE

Containing Approximately 2,073.45 acres

T. 1 N., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian

Section 1: NESE
Section 4: SWSE
Section 13: SE, SWSW
Section 24: SWSW

Containing Approximately 320 acres

T. 1 N., R. 16 E., Boise Meridian

Section 7: Lot 2 (44.18)
Section 18: Lots 3 (44.50), 4 (44.57), E2SW, W2SE, SESE
Section 19: Lots 1 (44.57), 2 (44.50), 3 (44.44), 4 (44.37), E2NW, N2NE, SWNE, W2SE, E2SW
Section 20: NWNW, SWSW
Section 31: Lot 1 (40.94), E2NW, NE, NWSE

Containing Approximately 1,561.14 acres

T. 1 N., R. 15 E., Boise Meridian

Section 2: Lots 3 (41.12), 4 (41.20), S2NW, W2SW
Section 26: SENW

Containing Approximately 282.32 acres

T. 1 N., R. 14 E., Boise Meridian

Section 5: Lots 2 (40.80), 3 (40.79), N2SW
Section 10: W2SW
Section 11: NENE
Section 14: N2NE
Section 20: W2NW

Containing Approximately 441.59 acres

T. 1 N., R. 13 E., Boise Meridian

Section 4: Lots 1 (41.06), 2 (41.15), 3 (41.29), 4 (44.61), 5 (42.49), 6 (41.89)
Section 5: Lots 1 (41.48) 2 (41.16), 3 (40.85), 4 (40.53), S2N2, S2
Section 7: Lot 5 (39.72)
Section 8: Lot 1 (40.40)
Section 10: W2SW
Section 13: W2E2, SESW
Section 15: W2W2, E2SW
Section 18: Lots 3 (46.72), 4 (47.01)
Section 19: Lots 1 (47.33), 2 (47.66), 3 (47.99), 4 (48.32), E2W2, E2NE
Section 20: SWNW, NWSW
Section 24: SWNW, E2NW, NE, N2SW
Section 30: Lot 1 (48.32), NENW

Containing Approximately 2,549.98 acres

T. 1 N., R. 12 E., Boise Meridian

Section 12: ALL
Section 13: N2, SE, E2SW, NWSW
Section 14: N2NE, SENE
Section 24: NENW, NE, N2SE
Section 25: E2SE
Section 31: SE

Containing Approximately 1,880 acres

T. 2 N., R. 12 E., Boise Meridian

Section 31: Lots 1 (31.11), 2 (30.84), 3 (30.58), 4 (30.24), 5 (29.70), 6 (39.46), 7 (39.22), E2NW, NE, NESW, N2SE
Section 32: Lots 1 (39.36) 2 (39.29), 3 (39.21), 4 (39.14), N2, N2S2
Section 33: Lots 1 (39.79), 2 (39.61), 3 (39.45), 4 (39.82), N2, N2S2
Section 34: Lots 1 (40.64), 2 (40.09), 3 (39.84), 4 (39.82), N2, N2S2
Section 35: Lots 1 (41.36), 2 (41.02), 3 (40.98), 4 (40.92), N2, N2S2

Containing Approximately 3151.49 acres⁺

***Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service only (Alternative 1). Under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 these lands would be available for disposal to others as well.

T. 2 N. R. 13 E., Boise Meridian

Section 31: Lots 1 (45.48), 2 (45.63), 3 (45.79), 4 (45.83), 5 (39.72), 6 (39.77), 7 (39.99), E2NW, NE, N2SE, SESW
Section 32: Lots 1 (38.56), 2 (38.91), 3 (39.31), 4 (39.81), N2, N2S2
Section 33: Lots 1 (37.85), 2 (38.14), 3 (38.31), 4 (38.34), N2, N2S2

Containing Approximately 1,931.44 acres

T. 2 N., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian

Section 4: SWNE
Section 10: W2NW
Section 11: NWSW
Section 13: S2SE, SESW
Section 23: NENW, N2NE
Section 24: N2N2
Section 28: SWSW

Containing Approximately 600 acres

T. 2 N., R. 21 E., Boise Meridian

Section 12: SESW
Section 14: E2NW, N2NE
Section 15: SENE, NESE, SWSE, SWSW
Section 20: S2NW, E2NE, SWNE, NWSE

Containing Approximately 600 acres

T. 2 N., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian

Section 1: N2NE, S2SE, W2SW, NESW, SWNW
Section 2: SESE
Section 4: SESE
Section 9: N2NE, SWNE, SE, S2SW
Section 11: SENW, SWNE, W2SE, E2SW
Section 12: NWNW, N2NE, E2SW, SWSW
Section 13: SENW, SWNE, NWSE, SWSW
Section 15: E2SE
Section 17: NE
Section 21: N2NW, SENW
Section 22: NENE
Section 24: NWNW
Section 25: NWNW
Section 33: W2NE

Containing Approximately 1,960 acres

T. 2 N. R. 23 E., Boise Meridian

Section 6: Lot 1 (39.14), NENW, SWSE
Section 18: N2SE, E2SW
Section 30: Lot 2 (39.36)
Section 31: Lots 2 (39.63), 3 (39.90), 4 (40.10), 7 (40.79)

Containing Approximately 478.92 acres

T. 3 N., R. 23 E., Boise Meridian

Section 32: SWNE
Section 33: NWSW

Containing Approximately 80 acres

T. 3 N., R. 22 E., Boise Meridian

Section 35: SENE

Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 3 N., R. 20 E., Boise Meridian

Section 19: NENW

Containing Approximately 40 acres

T. 3 N., R. 19 E., Boise Meridian
Section 24: W2NE, SENE

Containing Approximately 120 acres

T. 4 N., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian

Section 5: Lot *4 (37.60)

Section 6: Lots *1 (37.22), *2 (36.96), *3 (36.48), *4 (36.14), *5 (40.60), *6 (41.16), *SENW, *S2NE

Containing Approximately 386.16 acres⁺

***Drop from consideration: Approximately 386.16 acres**

⁺**Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service only (Alternative 1). They would be retained in public ownership under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

T. 4 N., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian

* Section 1: Lots *1 (35.83), *2 (35.99), *5 (34.38), SWNE⁺

Section 13: Portions south of road NENENENWNW and E2E2E2SENW (6 +/-)

Containing Approximately 152.20 acres

***Drop from consideration: Approximately 146.20 acres**

⁺**Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service only (Alternative 1). They would be retained in public ownership under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

T. 5 N., R. 17 E., Boise Meridian

* Section 36: *NWNW, *SENW, *S2NE, *SE, *E2SW

Containing Approximately 400 acres⁺

***Drop from consideration: Approximately 400 acres**

⁺**Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service (Alternative 1). They would be retained in public ownership under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

T. 5 N., R. 18 E., Boise Meridian

* Section 31: Lots *2 (39.76), *3 (39.70), *4 (39.56), *5 (39.74), *6 (39.74), *7 (39.91), *8 (39.04), *E2NW, *NE, *N2SE, *NESW

* Section 32: Lot *4 (40.10), *N2, *NWSE, *N2SW

Containing Approximately 1,117.55 acres⁺

***Drop from consideration: Approx. 1,177.55 acres**

⁺**Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service (Alternative 1). They would be retained in public ownership under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

***Denotes lands that would be dropped from consideration for potential disposal (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 only)**

Alternative 1:

Total Acres Available for Potential Disposal Under FLTFA

approximately 49,972.86 acres

Alternatives 2, 3, and 4:

Total Acres Dropped from Potential Disposal

approximately 4,233.77 acres

Total Acres Available for Potential Disposal under FLTFA

approximately 45,739.09 acres

Appendix 7

Part A: Special Status Animal Species Known to Occur in the Shoshone Field Office Area

(Based on FWS Species List Number 1-4-02-SP-465. Also see legend beginning on page 91.)

Species	Status		
	<u>Fed.</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>BLM</u>
MAMMALS			
Gray Wolf (<u>Canis lupus</u>)	E(XN)	E	1
Canada Lynx (<u>Lynx canadensis</u>)	T	SC	1
Townsend's Western Big-eared Bat (<u>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</u>)	I	SC	3
Yuma Myotis (<u>Myotis yumanensis</u>)	I		W
Western Pipistrelle (<u>Pipistrellus hesperus</u>)	I	SC	4
Western Small-footed Myotis (<u>Myotis ciliolabrum</u>)	I		W
Long-eared Myotis (<u>Myotis evotis</u>)	I		W
Long-legged Myotis (<u>Myotis volans</u>)	I		W
Pygmy Rabbit (<u>Brachylagus idahoensis</u>)	I	SC	3
North American Wolverine (<u>Gulo gulo luscus</u>)	I	SC	3
Kit Fox (<u>Vulpes macrotis</u>)	I	SC	3
BIRDS			
White-faced Ibis (<u>Plegadis chihi</u>)	I		3
Trumpeter Swan (<u>Cygnus buccinator</u>)	I	SC	3
Bald Eagle (<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>)	T	E	1
Northern Goshawk (<u>Accipiter gentilis</u>)	I	SC	3
Ferruginous Hawk (<u>Buteo regalis</u>)	I		3
Greater Sage Grouse (<u>Centrocercus urophasianus</u>)	I		3
Black Tern (<u>Chlidonias niger</u>)		SC	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<u>Coccyzus americanus</u>)	C	SC	2
Boreal Owl (<u>Aegolius funereus</u>)	I	SC	3
Northern Pygmy Owl (<u>Surnia ulula</u>)			W
Western Burrowing Owl (<u>Athene cucularia hypugea</u>)	I		W
Flammulated Owl (<u>Otis flammeolus</u>)	I		-
Calliope Hummingbird (<u>Stellula calliope</u>)			W
Lewis Woodpecker (<u>Melanerpes lewis</u>)			W
Red-naped Sapsucker (<u>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</u>)			W
Williamson's Sapsucker (<u>Sphyrapicus thyroides</u>)			W
Killdeer (<u>Charadrius vociferus</u>)			W
Long-billed Curlew (<u>Numenius americanus</u>)	I		W
Loggerhead Shrike (<u>Lanias ludovicianus</u>)	I	SC	3
Willow Flycatcher (<u>Empidonax traillii</u>)			3

Species	<u>Fed.</u>	<u>Status ID</u>	<u>BLM</u>
BIRDS (continued)			
Olive-sided flycatcher (<u>Contopus cooperi</u>)			W
Pinyon Jay (<u>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</u>)			W
Sage Thrasher (<u>Oreoscoptes montanus</u>)			3
Plumbeous Vireo (<u>Vireo plumbeus</u>)			W
Lazuli Bunting (<u>Passerina cyanea</u>)			W
Green-tailed Towhee (<u>Pipilo chlorurus</u>)			W
Virginia's Warbler (<u>Vermivora virginiae</u>)			4
Brewer's Sparrow (<u>Spizella breweri</u>)			3
Grasshopper Sparrow (<u>Ammodromas savannarum</u>)			W
Black-throated Sparrow (<u>Amphispiza bilineata</u>)			4
Sage Sparrow (<u>Amphispiza belli</u>)			3
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS			
Western Toad (<u>Bufo boreas</u>)	I	SC	3
Northern Leopard Frog (<u>Rana pipiens</u>)	I	SC	3
Columbia Spotted Frog (<u>Rana luteiventris</u>)	I	SC	2
Common Garter Snake (<u>Thamnophis sirtalis</u>)	I		3
Mojave Black-collared Lizard (<u>Crotaphytus bicinctores</u>)	I	SC	3
Longnose snake (<u>Rhinocheilus lecontei</u>)	I	SC	3
Short-horned lizard (<u>Phrynosoma douglassi</u>)	I		-
FISH			
Leatherside Chub (<u>Gila copei</u>)	I		3
Interior Redband Trout (<u>Oncorhynchus mykiss gibbsi</u>)	I		2
Shoshone Sculpin (<u>Cottus greeniei</u>)	I		2
White Sturgeon (<u>Acipenser transmontanus</u>)	I		3
Wood River Sculpin (<u>Cottus leiopomus</u>)	I		2
INVERTEBRATES			
Bliss Rapids Snail (<u>Taylorconcha serpenticola</u>)	T		1
Idaho Springsnail (<u>Fontelicolla idahoensis</u>)	E		1
Utah Valvata Snail (<u>Valvata utahensis</u>)	E		1
Snake River Physa Snail (<u>Physa natricina</u>)	E		1
Banbury Springs Lanx (<u>Lanx n. sp.</u>)	E		1
Idaho Dunes Tiger Beetle (<u>Cicindela arenicola</u>)	I		2
Blind Cave Leiodid Beetle (<u>Glacicavicola bathysciodes</u>)	I		2
Idaho Pointheaded Grasshopper (<u>Arolophitus pulchellus</u>)	I		2
Columbia Pebblesnail (<u>Fluminicola columbiana</u>)	I		3

Bird and mammal lists are a combination of personal observations (Paul McClain, Shoshone Field Office wildlife biologist), "Idaho Bird Distribution" Special Publication No. 13, and the Idaho Conservation Data Center database.

Appendix 7
Part B: BLM Sensitive Plant Species Known to Occur
in the Shoshone Field Office Area

FAMILY		Status	
Species	Fed.	ID	BLM
ASTERACEAE			
Bugleg Goldenweed (<u>Haplopappus insecticuriis</u>)	I	G3	3
Hooked Stylocline (<u>Ancistrocarphus (Stylocline) filaginea</u>)		M	W
BRASSICACEAE			
Slickspot Peppergrass (<u>Lepidium papilliferum</u>)	C	G2	2
Biennial Stanleya (<u>Stanleya conferifolia</u>)	-	G1	2
CAMPANULACEAE			
Bacigalupi's Downingia (<u>Downingia bacigalupii</u>)	-	S	4
FABACEAE			
Camas Milkvetch (<u>Astragalus atratus</u> var. <u>inseptus</u>)	I	G4/T3	3
Picabo Milkvetch (<u>Astragalus oniciformis</u>)	-	G3	3
Snake River Milkvetch (<u>Astragalus purshii</u> var. <u>ophiogenes</u>)	-	S	3
HYDROPHYLLACEAE			
Least Phacelia (<u>Phacelia minutissima</u>)	I	G3	3
PORTUOLACACEAE			
Fringed Redmaids (<u>Calandrinia ciliata</u>)	-	R	W
PRIMULACEAE			
Cusick's Primrose (<u>Primula cusickiana</u>)	-	R	W
LOASACEAE			
United (Congested) Blazingstar (<u>Mentzelia congesta</u>)	-	R	W
ORCHIDACEAE			
Ute's Ladies Tress (<u>Spiranthes diluvialis</u>)	T	G2	1
Giant Helleborine (<u>Epipactis gigantea</u>)	-	S2	3
CYPERACEAE			
Buxbaum's Sedge (<u>Carex buxbaumii</u>)	-	S	3
POACEAE			
Tall Dropseed (<u>Sporobolus asper</u>)	-	S1	3

FWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service):

- E = Federally Endangered
- XN = Experimental, non-essential population
- T = Federally Threatened
- P = Formally Proposed for Federal listing as T&E
- C = Federal Candidates for listing as T or E
- I = Species of concern to USF&WS but without formal federal status

ID (State of Idaho):

Animals:

- E = Endangered
- T = Threatened
- SC = Species of Concern
(definitions from Idaho Department of Fish and Game web page, 2002)

Plants:

State Rare Species (Taxa rare within the political boundaries of Idaho, but more common elsewhere):

State Priority 1 (S1) = Taxa in danger of becoming extinct or extirpated from Idaho in the foreseeable future if identifiable factors contributing to their decline continue to operate; these are taxa whose populations are present only at critically low levels or whose habitats have been degraded or depleted to a significant degree.

State Priority 2 (S2) = Taxa likely to be classified as Priority 1 within the foreseeable future within Idaho, if factors contributing to their population decline or habitat degradation or loss continue.

Sensitive (S) = Taxa with small populations or localized distributions within Idaho that presently do not meet the criteria for classifications as Priority 1 or 2, but whose populations and habitats might be jeopardized without active management or removal of threats.

Monitor (M) = Taxa common within a limited range, as well as those taxa which are uncommon but have no identifiable threats.

Review (R) = Taxa which may be of conservation concern in Idaho, but lack sufficient data to base a recommendation regarding their appropriate classification.

Globally Rare Species (Taxa rare throughout their range):

- G = Global rank indicator; denotes rank based on range-wide status.
- T = Trinomial rank indicator; denotes range-wide status of variety or subspecies.
- 1 = Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction (typically 5 or fewer occurrences).
- 2 = Imperiled because of rarity or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction (typically 6 to 20 occurrences).
- 3 = Rare or uncommon, but not imperiled (typically 21 to 100 occurrences).
- 4 = Not rare and apparently secure, but with cause for long-term concern (usually more than 100 occurrences).
- 5 = Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure.

BLM (Bureau of Land Management):

Type 1. Threatened, Endangered and Proposed Species (1)

These species are listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as threatened or endangered, or they are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Type 2. Rangewide/Globally Imperilment Species (2)

These are species designated as FWS candidate species or are ranked by the Natural Heritage Program network as globally rare (G3 or T3) to critically imperiled (G1, T1).

Animals: Candidate Species and those ranked by the Natural Heritage Program network with global ratings of G1-G3 or T1-T3.

Plants: Candidate Species and those ranked by the Natural Heritage Program network with global ratings of G1-G3 or T1-T3 with a threat priority of 1-9

Type 3. Regional/State Imperilment Species (3)

These are species that are in danger of becoming extirpated from Idaho in the foreseeable future if factors contributing to their decline, or habitat degradation or loss, continue.

Animals: Idaho BLM sensitive species that (a) are not in Type 2, (b) are S1 or S2 (exception being a peripheral or disjunct species), or (c) score high (18 or greater) using the Criteria for Evaluating Animals for Sensitive Species Status or other regional/national evaluation lists (e.g., Partners-in-Flight scores).

Plants: Idaho BLM sensitive species that (a) are ranked by the Natural Heritage Program network with global ratings of G1-G3 or T1-T3 with a threat priority of 10-12 or (b) have a Idaho Native Plant Society ranking of Priority 1-2 or Sensitive.

Type 4. Species of Concern (4)

These are species that are generally rare in Idaho and (a) may be local endemics with currently low threat levels or (b) peripheral, rare species in Idaho.

Animals: Sensitive species that have an S1 or S2 ranking but are peripheral species to Idaho.

Plants: Idaho Native Plant Society sensitive species that are not Type 3. These are generally rare species with low levels of threats.

Type 5. Watch List (W)

Watch list species are **not** considered **BLM sensitive species** and associated sensitive species policy guidance does not apply. Watch list species include species that may be added to the sensitive species list depending on new information concerning threats and species biology or statewide trends. For plants, these are Idaho Native Plant Society “Monitor” and “Review” species and sensitive species (Types 2, 3, or 4) that are only suspected to occur in a BLM Field Office area. Watch list species include two general categories of species:

- A. Local endemic, peripheral, disjunct or generally rare species with stable, downward or suspected downward population trends with (a) threats are not well understood and/or (b) species biology is not well understood.
- B. Wide-ranging species with decreasing trend nationally or regionally, but not in Idaho (or status in Idaho is unknown).

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