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Bureau of Land Management

Shoshone Field Office
Upper Snake River District
Shoshone, Idaho

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Proposed Amendments
to
Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans
for
Land Tenure Adjustment
and
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

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Proposed Decision Record

Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans for Land Tenure Adjustment and ACEC Designations (April 21, 2003)

Decision

The BLM's decision is to implement the land tenure adjustment management direction and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations and management direction described in the Proposed Amendments to the Shoshone Land Use Plans (USDI-BLM, April 2003). The proposed amendments are very similar to the BLM's preferred alternative (Alternative 3) that was described and analyzed in the Draft Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans and Environmental Assessment # ID-076-2002-0004 (USDI-BLM, 2002). This direction amends the Magic Management Framework Plan (MFP) approved in 1975, the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP (1976), the Sun Valley MFP (1982), and the Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1985). The amendments apply to approximately 1.44 million acres of public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office.

The BLM's decision includes designation of the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA, which affects public lands management on about 840 acres of public lands managed by the Four Rivers Field Office – BLM. The King Hill Creek ACEC designation amends the Jarbidge RMP, approved in 1987.

A plan for monitoring and evaluating the amendments would be implemented as described on page 35 of the Proposed Amendments.

The amendments include the following changes in management direction:

Land Tenure Adjustment - Existing management limits land tenure adjustment through disposal to those tracts that were identified for potential disposal in the existing land use plans (approximately 50,000 acres). The amendments change land tenure adjustment guidance for the entire Shoshone Field Office area by defining land management areas or “zones” where public lands are emphasized for retention or can be considered for disposal. Zone 1 lands (approximately 14,000 acres) are identified for retention and would not be disposed of. Zone 2 lands (about 950,000 acres) would also be retained, except for public lands along a boundary with Zone 3, 4, or 5 that may be disposed of in order to acquire additional high resource value lands and/or consolidate public lands ownership. Zone 3 (127,000 acres) emphasizes land tenure adjustments that consolidate ownership and improve manageability of public lands. Zone 4 (62,000 acres) contains public lands that are isolated from one another and from other public lands tracts managed by the Shoshone Field Office; the emphasis in this zone is to dispose of appropriate tracts primarily through exchange, in order to improve resource values and consolidate ownership within Zones 1, 2, 3, and 5. Like Zone 3, Zone 5 (121,000 acres) stresses

consolidation of ownership; however, unique considerations of the Zone 5 area (Wood River Valley) must be evaluated prior to any land tenure adjustment.

In addition to utilizing a “zones” approach to defining retention and adjustment areas, the amendments identify criteria for evaluating land tenure adjustment proposals. These criteria are intended to help the BLM consistently review land tenure adjustment proposals and determine which lands are the highest priority for retention, acquisition, and disposal. The amendments also provide detailed direction for various specific aspects of land tenure, including acquisition priorities, emphasis on State and private land exchanges and sales, DLE/Carey Act disposals, R&PP Act leases and patents, aquifer recharge and communication site authorization, management of the Isolated Wildlife Tract Program, resolution of unauthorized use, split estate mineral situations, and acquisition of access. All land tenure adjustment actions would be required to comply with the guidelines in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), meet the criteria for land ownership adjustment and the emphasis of the applicable management zone(s), stand on their own merit through public review and comment, and be in compliance with NEPA.

ACEC Designations: The amendments designate three new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas totaling 17,026 acres. These designations amend existing management direction for the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP and the Jarbidge RMP. The King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA (approximately 2,500 acres) is designated to highlight management of scenic, fisheries, and riparian values. Unique management to maintain the pristine qualities of the ACEC includes closure to introduction of non-native genetic strains of trout, livestock grazing, mineral material sales/free use permits, new land use authorizations, and motorized vehicle use; weed treatment; a visual resource management Class I designation; and a focus on management which maintains or improves desirable habitat conditions for Interior redband trout. The McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA (3,764 acres) and the Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA (10,762 acres) both highlight management of scenic, wildlife, and cave resource values. Unique management for these cave ACECs includes additional activity planning to identify measures needed to protect cave resource values; seasonal cave access restrictions; motorized vehicle use limitations; and restrictions on new land use authorizations. The Tee-Maze ACEC/RNA would also have limitations on mineral material sales and free use permits.

Rationale for the Decision

Existing management plans for the Shoshone Field Office do not address some of the current resource management concerns within the planning area or provide flexibility to respond to changing public interests and needs. The proposed plan amendments resolve concerns relating to both of the identified planning issues: land tenure adjustment and ACEC designations.

Land Tenure Adjustment

Existing management limits land tenure adjustments through disposal (sale, exchange, R&PP patent, etc.) to the approximately 50,000 acres of disposal tracts that are listed in the approved MFPs and RMP. These tracts do not appear to meet the needs of private individuals or city, county, and State governments, since no applications for the transfer of these lands have been

submitted in recent years. Conversely, the Shoshone Field Office has more than 100 applications/proposals for land tenure adjustment of public lands that are not identified for disposal in the current land use plans. Amendments to the current land use plans are needed to achieve numerous objectives which cannot be attained under existing management:

- establish consistent direction for evaluating land tenure adjustment proposals;
- improve the time- and cost-efficiency of the lands program;
- make lands available for public purposes (city, county, State, and tribal) as future needs arise;
- resolve long-standing applications for Desert Land Entry and Carey Act disposals;
- resolve long-standing cases of unauthorized use;
- improve the BLM's ability to acquire high value lands and resources; and
- consolidate public lands, thereby improving management efficiency.

Although all three amendment alternatives considered in the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment would satisfy portions of these objectives, only the BLM's preferred alternative (Alternative 3) would meet **all** of the objectives to any great extent. For example, Alternative 2 would provide limited ability to resolve unauthorized uses on small, isolated tracts since land tenure adjustments would focus on consolidation of public lands through exchanges with the State of Idaho. Alternative 4 would provide limited ability to improve the time- and cost-efficiency of the lands program or acquire high value lands and resources, since land tenure adjustments would focus on disposal of isolated, unmanageable parcels of public lands that would primarily address the BLM's management efficiency and the needs of private landowners.

Alternative 3, as modified in the Proposed Amendments, would meet all of the land tenure management objectives stated above. The preferred alternative was developed to respond in a balanced manner to the numerous, and sometimes opposing, concerns raised during scoping for the amendments. Public comments on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment indicate the BLM was successful at developing a balanced alternative, since comments were generally supportive of Alternative 3. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact indicate Alternative 3 would have numerous beneficial impacts, including balancing the public's and BLM's needs by making lands available for disposal to communities, other entities, and the public; allowing the BLM to consolidate and protect lands that contain important habitats or watersheds; providing for the retention or acquisition of important public and tribal resources and values; and protecting ACEC values. Alternative 3, as modified slightly in the Proposed Amendments, would best meet all of the land tenure adjustment objectives.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern Designations

Alternative 3 is the BLM's preferred course of action for new Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations. The Environmental Assessment (pp. 105-111, and 113) indicated that existing management fails to provide sufficient management direction to fully protect resources within three of the areas that meet relevance and importance criteria for designation as ACECs. The BLM has chosen to implement these designations.

- The impacts analysis for the King Hill Creek ACEC (Environmental Assessment, pp. 105-107 and 113) indicated designation and management would protect and improve Interior

redband trout habitat and help insure the genetic purity of the existing strain of Interior redband trout, a BLM sensitive species. Protection of the genetic strain would help reduce the need to list Interior redband trout as a threatened or endangered species. Under existing management direction for King Hill Creek, this genetically pure population of Interior redband trout would continue to be at risk of hybridization. Designating the King Hill Creek ACEC and implementing the identified management direction would focus management attention on the identified ACEC values and reduce the risk of loss or damage to those values. For example, restrictions on introduction of non-native genetic strains of trout into King Hill Creek should preserve the genetic integrity of the existing Interior redband trout population.

- The BLM's Upper Snake River District, including the Shoshone Field Office area, contains the largest concentration of caves in the State of Idaho and one of the largest concentrations of caves within the BLM's national jurisdiction. The impacts analysis for the McKinney Butte and Tee-Maze ACECs (Environmental Assessment, pp. 108-113) indicated designation and management would reduce impacts to fragile and irreplaceable cave resources (physical, scenic, and biological). Under existing management direction, those resources would continue to be at risk of loss or damage. Designating these two areas as ACECs and implementing the identified management direction would focus management attention on the identified ACEC values and reduce the risk of loss or damage to those values. For example, restrictions on cave access should reduce human disturbance of bat hibernacula and reduce the potential for bat mortality which could lead to listing of the Townsend's Western big-eared bat, a BLM sensitive species.

Four additional ACECs were proposed for designation in Alternative 2: Bennett Hills, Camas Creek, Coyote Hills, and Dry Creek. The BLM has chosen not to implement these designations because either (a) the resource protection desired can be achieved under existing management, and/or (b) an ACEC designation would increase the risk of adverse impacts to the identified ACEC values.

- The impacts analysis for the Camas Creek and Dry Creek ACEC designations indicated little to no difference in impacts from continuing existing management versus designating the ACECs (Environmental Assessment, pp. 95-98 and 101-104). Management to maintain or enhance the identified scenic and ecological ACEC values has already been implemented or can be implemented if needed under existing management guidance in the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP. An ACEC designation is not necessary in order to protect the ACEC values.
- The impacts analysis for the Bennett Hills and Coyote Hills ACECs disclosed that highlighting the cultural values in those areas through an ACEC designation may increase the potential for adverse impacts to occur (Environmental Assessment, pp. 92, 99-100, and 113). An ACEC designation would call attention to the general location of cultural resources and thereby increase the potential for vandalism or unauthorized excavation and collection. Existing management (Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP), law, regulation, and policy afford the BLM the ability to implement additional management actions to protect cultural values in those areas without an ACEC designation. Site-specific cultural clearances would

continue to be required prior to approval of mineral activities; which would insure cultural resources are not adversely affected. Currently, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is light. If use increases to the point where cultural resources are affected, the BLM has the authority to restrict OHV use in order to protect cultural resources.

- The public lands nominated as the Bennett Hills ACEC, but not proposed for ACEC designation, will continue to be managed according to the management direction stated in 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. This direction will enable the BLM to effectively manage vegetation and wildlife resources in the Bennett Hills area without an ACEC designation, including resources that were nominated as ACEC values (e.g., sagebrush ecosystem, sage grouse), but did not meet relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation.

After careful review of the Environmental Assessment of and comments received on the Draft Amendments, the BLM has decided to implement Alternative 3, with slight changes in response to public comments. These amendments to existing management direction provide a framework for land tenure adjustment that will be flexible, efficient, and responsive to public, government, and tribal needs in the present and future. The amendments also improve resource protection for fragile fisheries and cave resources by designating three new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the Shoshone Field Office.

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Proposed Amendments
to
Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans
for
Land Tenure Adjustment
and
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

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.

Summary of the Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Upper Snake River District (USRD) proposes to amend four land use plans in order to define new land tenure adjustment criteria and designate three new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) within the USRD's Shoshone Field Office area (see Map 1). The proposed amendments 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.

One of the actions proposed (designation of 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 amendments were developed to achieve the following:

- 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.

The Shoshone Field Office sought public and tribal input on the proposed amendments during an initial scoping period and a recent, 60-day public comment period on a Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment document (USDI-BLM, June 2002). The BLM also initiated and completed consultation with the two affected tribes (Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Historic Preservation Office. Further details on the consultation, coordination, and public involvement process for this planning effort are described in Appendix A (see pages 47-48).

The Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment described and analyzed existing management (Alternative 1) and three "action" alternatives to amend the existing land use plans (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4). Alternative 3 was identified as the BLM's preferred alternative. The proposed amendments carry forward the management direction described as Alternative 3 with only a few changes, as noted below.

Changes to the Preferred Alternative

The list below summarizes the changes made to the preferred alternative (Alternative 3) when developing the proposed amendments. Page number and map references are to pages and maps in this Proposed Amendments document. All text changes are also identified (through highlighting) where they occur in the document.

- **Map 3 (p. 12) and pp. 11 and 14:** Along the west side of the Lincoln-Gooding county line northeast of Gooding, Idaho, approximately 6,000 acres were removed from Zone 2 and placed in Zone 4.
- **Pages 16 and 19:** Zone 5 management direction was revised to clarify that sales to private land owners would only be for small, isolated parcels generally left from mining patents or a resurvey by the USDI Cadastral Survey.
- **Page 20:** Management direction for aquifer recharge sites was revised to provide for potential exchanges with or sales to the State of Idaho or other public entities. The action also describes management direction for an existing flood control site (ancillary benefit to the aquifer recharge program).
- **Page 23:** Changes were made to water rights management direction to clarify that the Shoshone Field Office will follow current Idaho water law and BLM water rights policy.
- **Page 22:** Changes were made to clarify the management direction for future (new) short- and long-term use authorizations.
- **Map 5 (p. 32) and pp. 28-29:** Changes were made to the map and text to revise the King Hill Creek ACEC boundary (changes to the western boundary along the southern-most portion of the ACEC) and acreage (reduced from 2,880 to 2,500 acres).
- **Pages 11, 13, and 25:** Changes were made to clarify the BLM's priorities for acquiring public access in Zones 1 and 2.

Note: Comments on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment pointed out several revisions that were needed to the Environmental Assessment (EA) portion of the document. Those corrections and additions to the EA are described in Appendix B (pp. 49-50).

Planning Issues and Concerns

The proposed amendments address the following concerns related to the two planning issues:

Land Tenure Adjustment

- Improve manageability of public lands by consolidating ownership and focusing on management priorities within watersheds.
- Emphasize retention and acquisition of high resource value lands and public access.
- Provide for disposal of lower resource value and/or scattered and isolated parcels.
- Provide for resolution of long term unauthorized uses.
- Establish criteria to consistently evaluate land tenure adjustment proposals.

- Increase flexibility to meet the existing and future land tenure adjustment needs of private individuals; local, state, and federal government agencies; Indian tribes; and the BLM.
- Improve the efficiency of the land tenure adjustment process.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Designations

- Carry forward ACEC nominations that meet both relevance and importance criteria for designation.
- Propose as ACECs only those nominated areas where designation is the most appropriate avenue to provide special management for the identified values and resources.
- Identify special management to maintain or enhance the identified values and resources.

Consistency with Related Plans, Programs, and Policies

NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1502.16(c)) and BLM planning regulations (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 initial coordination with representatives of tribal, local, State, and Federal government, the BLM identified several concerns which were considered throughout the amendments planning effort. These concerns were addressed to the extent possible in the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment distributed in June 2001. Representatives of state and local governments commented on the Draft Amendments/EA; these comments were considered when developing the proposed amendments described in this document. The BLM believes the proposed amendments to be consistent with the officially approved and adopted resource-related plans, programs, and policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes.

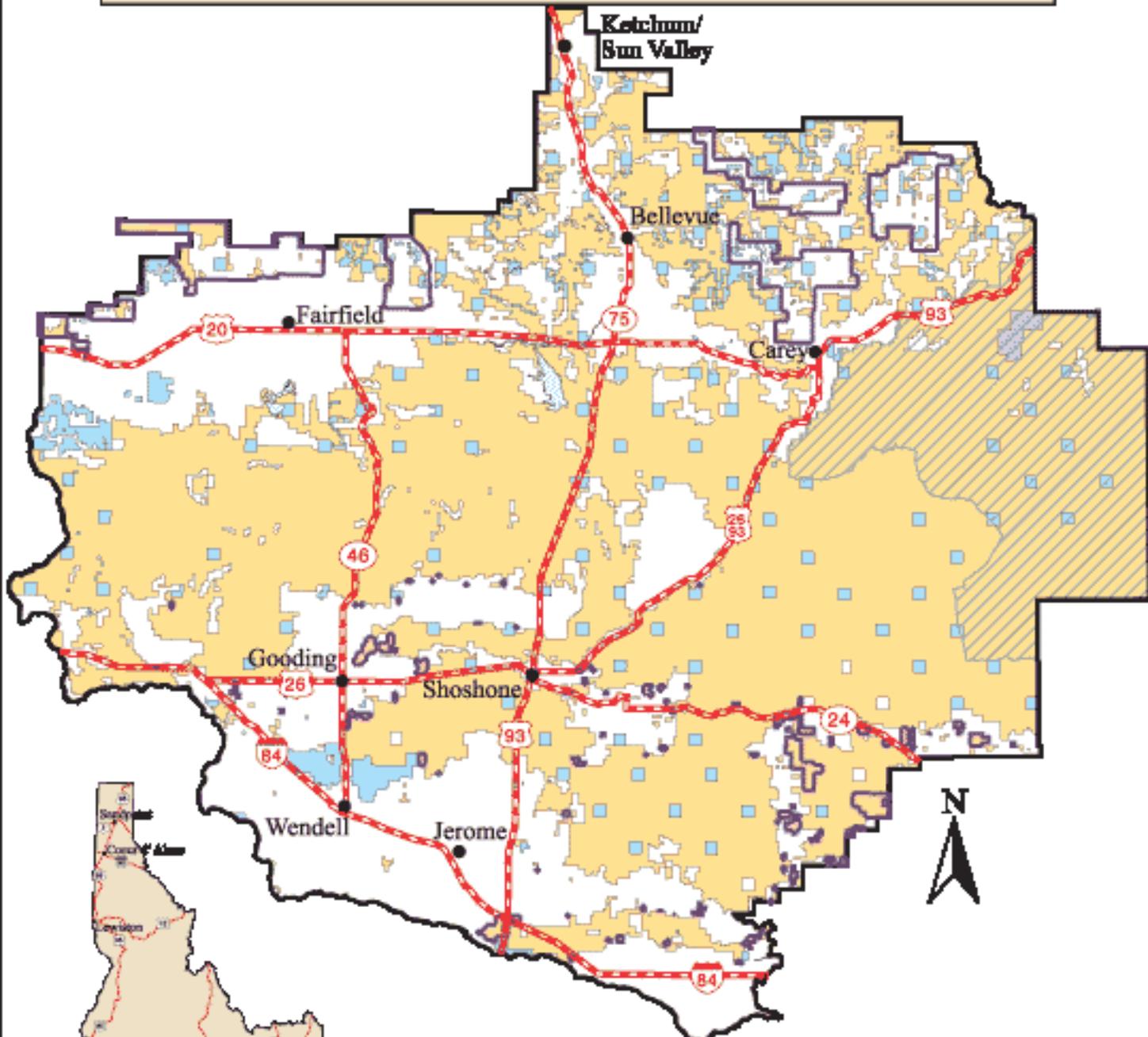
Further information on the BLM's consistency efforts during the amendments planning process is presented in Appendix A (pages 47-48).

Affected Area

The BLM's Shoshone Field Office manages approximately 1.44 million acres of public lands in south-central Idaho (see Map 2). Public lands comprise approximately 52% of the total land within the planning area (2.77 million acres), which lies within Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Elmore, and Minidoka counties. Private lands account for approximately 1.2 million acres, or 43% of the planning area, while State lands total 144,000 acres or 5%. 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.

The proposed designation of the King Hill Creek ACEC/RNA would also affect approximately 840 acres of public lands managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM in the King Hill Creek area (see Map 5, p. 32).

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



Area of Interest



Scale in Miles

Map Legend

- Shoshone Field Office Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- National Park Service
- Craters of the Moon National Monument
- Public Lands identified for potential disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)
- 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 positions/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.

Summary of Alternatives Considered

The Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment described and analyzed three alternative amendments to existing management (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4) in order to address the two planning issues: land tenure adjustment and new ACEC designations. The option of continuing existing management was also described and analyzed. Alternative 3 was identified as the BLM's preferred alternative.

Land Tenure Adjustment

Land tenure adjustment of public lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office is presently limited to those parcels specifically identified in the Field Office's four land use plans. The 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 the disposal tracts are identified in a plan amendment. The action alternatives identified direction for land tenure adjustment that would make public lands available for disposal in response to the public's changing priorities, improve the BLM's ability to manage the existing land base and present resource values, and help meet other objectives of the existing land use plans. The alternatives also addressed many specific land tenure considerations, including State of Idaho interests (such as 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.

Although all of the action alternatives addressed the above land tenure considerations, each alternative differed in its overall emphasis. Alternative 2 emphasized State land exchanges in order to consolidate large parcels of land through a minimum number of land tenure adjustments. Private land exchanges were be a low priority under Alternative 2, with the result that few private exchanges would likely be completed to resolve private landowners' concerns or acquire lands with important resource values. Alternative 3 (preferred alternative) sought to achieve public lands consolidation, management efficiency, and resource acquisition through both private and State land exchanges by using a "pooled lands" approach in priority watersheds. This emphasis would enable the BLM to address the concerns of many landowners (State, private, local government) and improve public lands management and resources. Alternative 4 focused on private land exchanges in order to resolve long-standing unauthorized uses. This emphasis was expected to decrease the number of other types of land tenure adjustments that could be completed (such as State land exchanges) and result in a high number of small, individual transactions.

ACEC Designations

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. Ten ACECs totaling 385,235 acres and including 15.3 miles of streams were nominated for consideration during the amendments planning process. The BLM used a consistent screening process (based on guidance provided by 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and BLM Manual Section 1613) as an initial evaluation to determine if a nominated area met basic relevance and importance criteria for designation. From three to seven ACECs were proposed for designation in the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment, depending on the alternative. The ACEC nominations and Draft Amendments' proposed designations are summarized in Table 1 below. The proposed amendments' ACEC designations are the same as Alternative 3, except for a change in the boundary of the King Hill Creek ACEC.

Table 1: Summary of ACEC Nominations and Draft Amendments' Designations

(Note: Acres are approximate)

Nominated ACEC (acres; relevant/important values)	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 take 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.

Alternatives Considered, but not Analyzed in Detail

Three alternatives were considered by the Shoshone Field Office, 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 in the plans for potential disposal would require a time consuming and costly plan amendment to be considered. The specific adjustment parcels currently identified in the Shoshone land use plans are not satisfying the needs of constituents at present or over the long term, and disposal of some of the identified parcels would create even more management inefficiencies than presently. 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. In contrast, a zone approach to identifying management (retention) and adjustment areas provides flexibility to the BLM, a long-term capability to meet public needs, consistent criteria for evaluating land tenure adjustment proposals, and a reduced 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 and/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: Big Wood/Warm Springs (236 acres, nominated for scenic values), Fir Grove (45 acres, nominated as an isolated stand of Douglas-fir), and King’s Crown (10 acres, nominated for unique and rare plant species).

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The Environmental Assessment for the Draft Amendments described the environmental impacts of existing management and the three amendment alternatives. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed by the Upper Snake River District Manager on June 18, 2002, was distributed with the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment. The FONSI weighed the impacts described in the EA against the criteria for determining significance found in the NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1508.27). The FONSI concluded that the impacts of all four alternatives are local in extent and not significant in terms of intensity. The following summaries explain the minor adverse or beneficial impacts which were anticipated under each alternative.

Alternative 1 (Continuation of Existing Management) - Land Tenure Adjustment: The BLM would continue to have limited ability to complete land tenure adjustments to acquire public access; acquire lands with high resource values; consolidate public lands to improve management efficiency; resolve long-standing use authorizations; provide public lands for disposal to State, county, or local governments (in order to meet the objectives of those governments and the citizens they serve); complete the transfer of lands qualified for disposal under the Desert Land Entry Act or Carey Act; resolve split mineral estate situations; authorize aquifer recharge sites; or consolidate land ownership in order to improve management efficiency, watershed values, and wildlife habitat. Most land tenure adjustments would require a costly and time-consuming land use plan amendment before the proposal could be considered. **ACEC Designations:** None of the nominated ACECs would be designated under existing management. Existing management is expected to adequately manage the resources and values within four of the seven nominated ACEC areas that were proposed for designation under an action alternative (Bennett Hills, Camas Creek, Coyote Hills, Dry Creek). Existing management is expected to adversely affect resources within three of the seven ACEC areas that were proposed for designation under an action alternative: (a) native redband trout species in the nominated King Hill Creek ACEC area would continue to be at risk of becoming hybridized with non-native trout, resulting in loss of the distinct genetic composition of this redband trout population; and (b) there would continue to be potential for irretrievable loss of physical, scenic, and biological cave and paleontological resources in the nominated McKinney Butte ACEC and Tee-Maze ACEC areas.

Alternative 2 - Land Tenure Adjustment: Unique historic, cultural, and natural resources would be identified as a high priority for retention and acquisition. Over time, the quality and quantity of high value resources would be expected to increase. Limiting acquisition of public access to the minimum number of sites needed to access large blocks of public lands would likely mean that the demand for public access would continue to exceed the supply. Although more public lands would be available for potential disposal than at present, Alternative 2's emphasis on State land exchanges would limit the number of land tenure adjustments that could be completed to address private land owners' or local communities' needs. On the other hand, focusing on State land exchanges would be an economical and cost efficient land tenure adjustment process since a minimum number of actions would result in large exchanges of property. **ACEC Designations:** Five of the seven proposed ACEC designations would help maintain resource values in ecologically critical areas (Camas Creek, Dry Creek, King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, Tee-Maze). The Bennett Hills ACEC and Coyote Hills ACEC proposed designations would not necessarily protect the identified ACEC values, since highlighting the areas' cultural values would increase public knowledge of the cultural resource locations and thereby increase the potential for vandalism or unauthorized excavation and collection.

Alternative 3 (Preferred Alternative) - Land Tenure Adjustment: Unique historic, cultural, and natural resources would be identified as a high priority for retention and acquisition. Over time, the quality and quantity of high value resources would be expected to increase. Alternative 3's emphasis on consolidating public lands through pooled land exchanges, accommodating needs for community expansion, and resolving long-standing unauthorized uses would give the BLM flexibility to use land tenure adjustments to improve public lands management and resources while also addressing the needs of local communities and private land owners. **ACEC Designations:** The designation of three new ACECs would insure the protection of those ecologically critical areas.

Alternative 4 - Land Tenure Adjustment: Alternative 4's emphasis on disposal of isolated, unmanageable parcels of public lands, would primarily address the BLM's management efficiency and 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. Public lands would not be consolidated to any great extent and little improvement in management efficiency would occur. **ACEC Designations:** The designation of three new ACECs would insure the protection of those ecologically critical areas.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments are described in text and table format on pages 9 through 37. Proposed land tenure adjustment management direction is discussed first, followed by the proposed ACEC designations, which begin on page 26.

Land Tenure Adjustment

The proposed amendments 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 proposed amendments 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 11-16 below), (b) specific criteria for land ownership adjustment (see pages 16-17), and any other applicable management actions that are listed in Table 3 (pp. 18-25). 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, 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 proposed 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?

Lands Status and Management Zones

The proposed amendments identify five land management zones, as shown on Map 3 and defined below.

The approximate acreage of each zone is shown in Table 2. All acres and percentages cited in the 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	950,000	1,086,000	39
3	359,000	48,000	127,000	534,000	19
4	573,000	25,000	62,000	660,000	24
5	156,000	20,000	121,000	297,000	11
Total	1,187,000	144,000	1,440,000	2,771,000	100

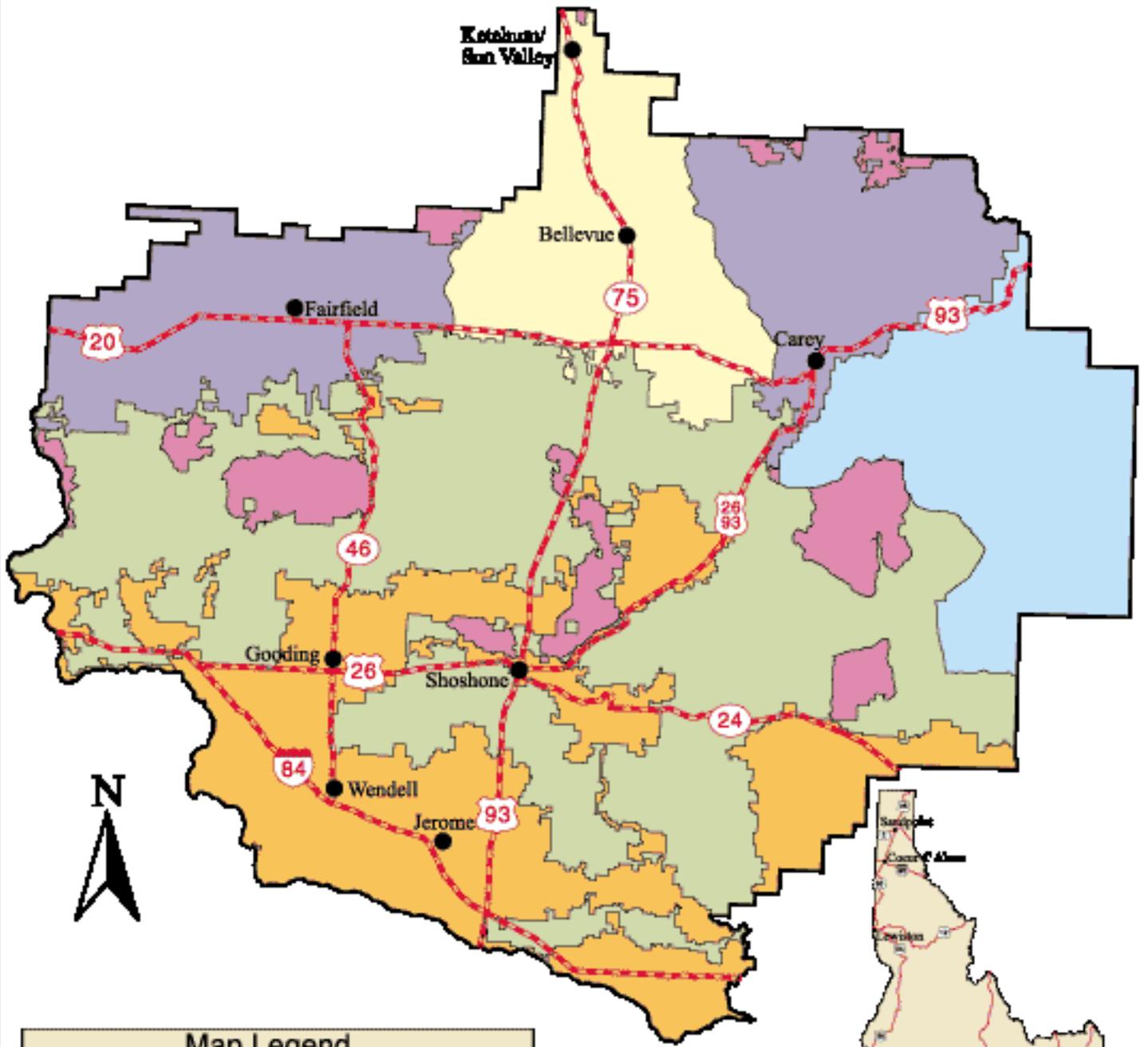
Retention Areas (Zone 1 and Zone 2):

Retention areas are those regions of public lands that would be retained in public ownership.

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 is to seek to acquire all private and State land in-holdings. **Public access will be considered in all land tenure actions.**

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 **950,000** 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:

MAP 3 PROPOSED LAND TENURE MANAGEMENT ZONES



Scale in Miles

Map Legend	
Shoshone Field Office Boundary...	
Craters of the Moon National Monument.....	
Zone 1.....	
Zone 2.....	
Zone 3.....	
Zone 4.....	
Zone 5.....	
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.

- 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 pages 16-17), 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. 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. However, the zone has extensive acres in private ownership (359,000 acres or 67% *of the zone*). This zone also has the largest amount of lands in State ownership (48,000 acres or 9% *of the zone*).

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 pages 16-17), 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 **62,000** 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 pages 16-17), 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.

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 pages 16-17), 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.

For each proposed lands transaction within Zone 5, the following factors need to be considered *in addition* to the standard Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (see pages 16-17).

- 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 **to private landowners** through land sales would only be for small (generally less than 10 acres), isolated parcels **generally** 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 criteria for land ownership adjustment. The proposed action would be compared with the criteria to see if the proposal fits within the highest priorities for retention, acquisition, or disposal.

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 management actions and zones selected in the final decision for the Shoshone Land Use Plans Amendments.

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.

Table 3: Shoshone Land Use Plans Proposed Amendments - Land Tenure Adjustment Management Direction

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
<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. 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.	<p>Land tenure actions would amend the following land use plans: Magic MFP, Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP, Sun Valley MFP, and Monument RMP. Land tenure management zone designations would be implemented as shown on Map 3 (page 12) (also see zone definitions on pp. 11-16). 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 land tenure and management zone(s), and the Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment presented on pp. 16-17. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acquisition Priorities	Acquisition priorities would be as stated in the current land use plans.	The BLM's acquisition priorities would be to reconnect habitats within priority watersheds and to acquire other lands with high resource values. An additional acquisition priority within Zone 1 would be to seek to acquire all private and State in-holdings. 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.

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Land Sales and Exchanges	<p>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).</p>	
	<p>Disposal of public lands through sale or exchange will only be considered on lands currently identified for potential disposal.</p>	<p>Disposal of public lands through sale or exchange would be allowed in Zones 2, 3, 4, and 5. In Zone 5, sales to private land owners would only be allowed if the tracts are small, isolated parcels generally left from mining patents or a resurvey by the USDI cadastral survey. 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. Sales would be a low priority, due to increased emphasis on land exchanges.</p>
	<p>Almost 49,973 acres of public lands were identified for disposal as of July 25, 2000. 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.</p>	<p>Approximately 45,739 acres of public lands identified for disposal as of July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal (see Attachment 1, pp. 36-37). 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.</p>
State Land Exchanges	<p>Disposal of public lands through exchange for State lands would only be considered on public lands currently identified for potential disposal.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Private Land Exchanges	<p>Disposal of public lands through exchange for private lands would only be considered on public lands currently identified for potential disposal.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Desert Land Entry Act/ Carey Act Applications and Lands Transfer	<p>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 and also meet the criteria of the Acts.</p>	<p>Current Desert Land Entry Act and Carey Act applications would be processed, and lands meeting the criteria of the Acts would be disposed of. The following are identified as current applications:</p> <p>Current Desert Land Entry (DLE) Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Current Carey Act Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDI 9897, 9483 and 9487. (These overlap with the same DLE applicants between Wendell and Gooding.) <p>No new DLE or Carey Act applications would be accepted.</p>
Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Leases and Patents	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 non-profit organization) when the BLM's priorities, the local or State government's priorities, and the public's needs are met by the patent process.</p>
Aquifer Recharge Sites (including flood control sites which are ancillary benefits to the aquifer recharge program)	<p>The existing recharge site and the existing flood control site (ancillary benefit to the aquifer recharge program) would continue to be allowed as per the signed Cooperative Agreements. All future recharge site authorizations would be made through right-of-way grants.</p>	<p>The existing recharge site authorized in Zone 1 would be retained in public ownership and continue to be authorized through the signed Cooperative Agreement. The existing flood control site (ancillary benefit to the aquifer recharge program) authorized in Zone 2 through the signed Cooperative Agreement, and the aquifer recharge site within Zone 2 that has been approved by the BLM through a signed Decision Record, would be made available for acquisition through exchange or purchase with the State of Idaho or other public entity. The BLM will also allow the State or other public entities to exchange or purchase future recharge sites identified within Zones 2 or 4, if the sites are approved through the NEPA process.</p>

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Communication Sites	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Isolated Wildlife Tract Program	<p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p>

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Management Direction for Future Land Use Permits and Resolution of Unauthorized Use (e.g., farming, equipment storage, material disposal, fences)	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.
	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).	Short-term authorizations or permits to cross BLM lands for the sole benefit of private farming practices (such as dry or wet pivot lines) will not be approved. No form of waste water application will be approved. A FLPMA right-of-way will be available to provide long-term authorization for actions such as water main lines and power lines grants, if needed to service private agricultural lands.
	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 adjustment would be equal in priority to 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.	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.
	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 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.
	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.	

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Water Rights	<p>Current Idaho water law and BLM water rights policy will be adhered to.</p> <p>Adherence to Idaho water law 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.</p>	
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 currently identified for disposal would require an individual, timely, and costly land use plan amendment prior to consideration of the land tenure adjustment proposal, and thus are not a priority to complete.	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.

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
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 currently identified for disposal 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. Community needs would be accommodated to the greatest extent possible.</p>
<i>“Open Space” Concept</i>	<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 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>

Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Acquisition of Access	<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>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). The BLM would seek to balance acquisition of legal public and administrative access.</p> <p>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. The emphasis on <u>initiating</u> lands actions in order to acquire access (versus completing other types of lands transactions) would vary by zone.</p> <p>Zone 1: Public access would be considered in all land tenure actions.</p> <p>Zone 2: Public access would be considered in all land tenure actions.</p> <p>Zone 3: Acquisition of public access would be a high priority.</p> <p>Zone 4: Acquisition of public access would be a low priority.</p> <p>Zone 5: Acquisition of public access would be a high priority.</p>
	<p>Legal administrative and/or public access may be acquired through purchase, easement, or other means.</p>	
Forest Resources	<p>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.</p>	<p>Small, isolated, and hard to manage public lands in the timber base would be considered for disposal if they meet the amendments' criteria for disposal (zone definition and Criteria for Land Ownership Adjustment (pp. 11-17)).</p>

ACEC Designations

The Federal Land Policy Management Act (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)).” [Note: More information on the BLM’s designation process for ACECs is found in *BLM Manual § 1613.1*. Specific information on the ACEC nominations evaluated during the amendments planning process is provided in the Shoshone Land Use Plans Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment.] The Shoshone Field Office presently has five designated ACECs (see Map 4, p. 27).

Three ACECs are proposed for designation in the Shoshone Plan Amendments: King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze (see Map 4). These proposed ACECs satisfy relevance and importance criteria listed in 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and BLM Manual Section 1613, and also have a need for special management of the identified resources and values.

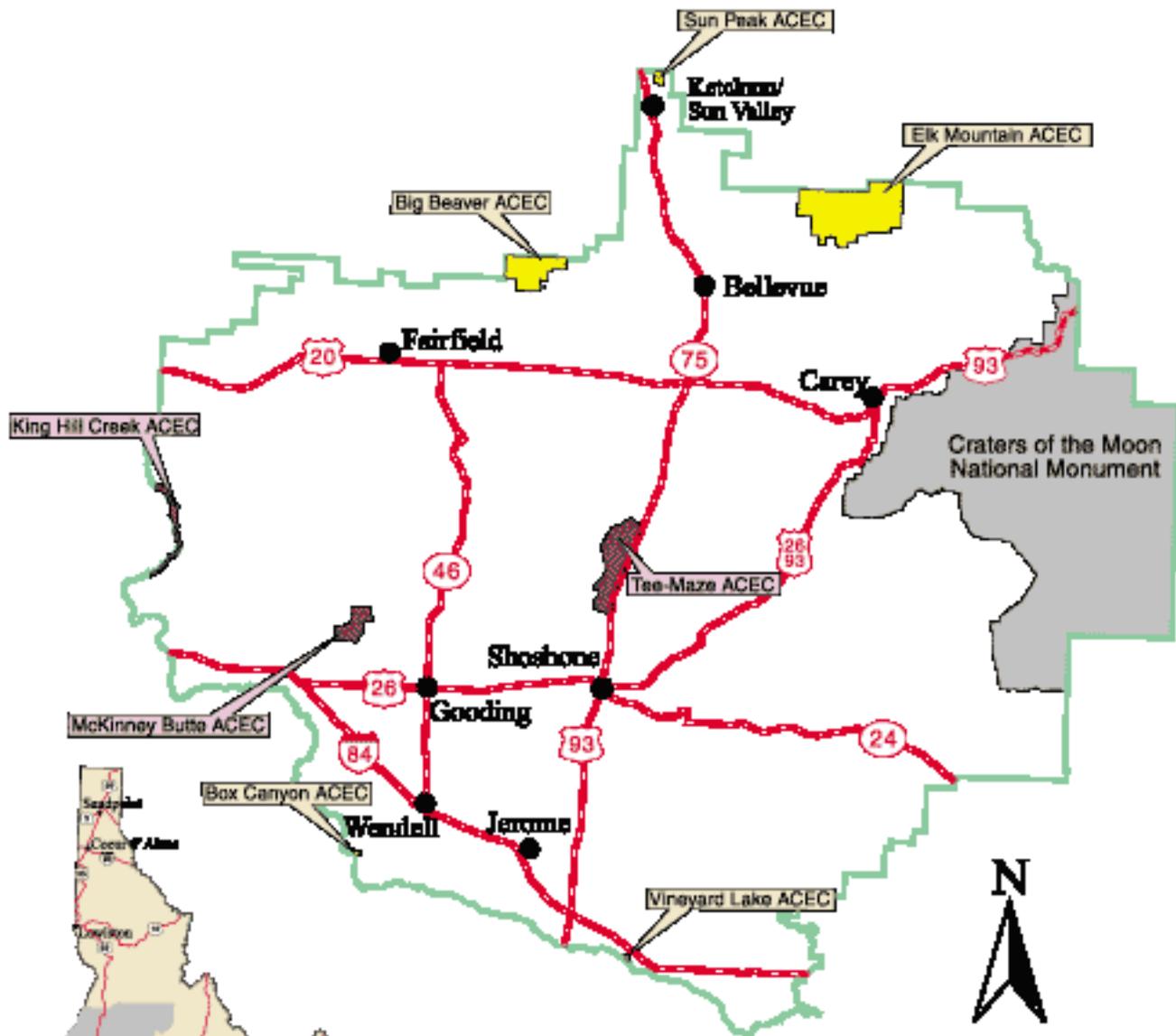
Relevance is based on the presence of a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or natural hazard. All three proposed ACECs met relevance criteria and also had substantial significance and values that met one or more of the “importance” 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.

The three proposed ACECs also met the BLM’s criteria for designation as Research Natural Areas (RNAs). A research natural area is an area which contains natural resource values of scientific interest and is managed primarily for research and educational purposes.

Table 4 below lists the acreage, identified relevance and importance, and special management actions for each proposed ACEC/RNA.

MAP 4 PROPOSED AND EXISTING ACECS IN THE SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE



Scale in Miles

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.

Map Legend

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

Table 4: Shoshone Land Use Plans Proposed Amendments - Proposed ACEC Designations

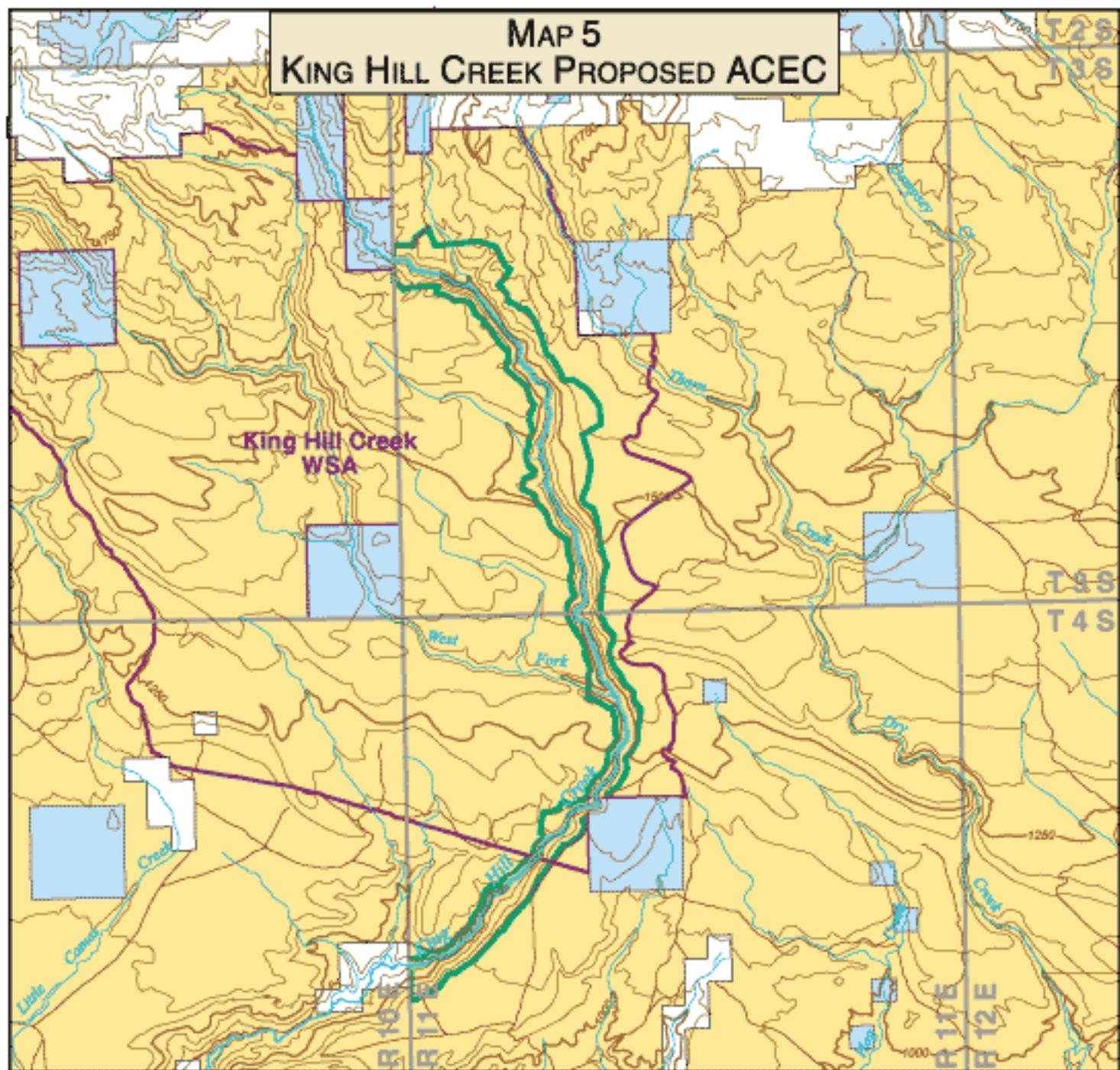
Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Proposed Designations		
Summary	No additional ACECs are proposed for designation.	The BLM would designate three additional ACECs totaling approximately 17,026 acres: King Hill Creek, McKinney Butte, and Tee-Maze (see Maps 5, 6, and 7, pp. 32-34). These ACECs would also be designated as Research Natural Areas (RNAs), since they contain natural resource values of scientific interest and would be managed primarily for research and educational purposes.
<i>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. These are the values for which the ACEC is being proposed for designation and the values for which protective management is also proposed.</i>		
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	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
<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:</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 2,500 acres) of King Hill Creek as an ACEC/RNA, including approximately 840 acres managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM (see Map 5, p. 32). 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>

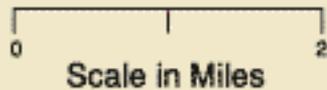
Issue/Concern	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
<p>McKinney Butte ACEC/RNA</p> <p>Relevance: Outstanding cave scenery and examples of volcanism and lava tube formation. Significant hibernating populations of two bat species, both BLM sensitive species. Diverse cave-adapted insect community. Known 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. 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 (see Map 6, p. 33). 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	Existing Management	Proposed Amendments
<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). 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 (see Map 7, p. 34). 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>

MAP 5 KING HILL CREEK PROPOSED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS



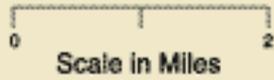
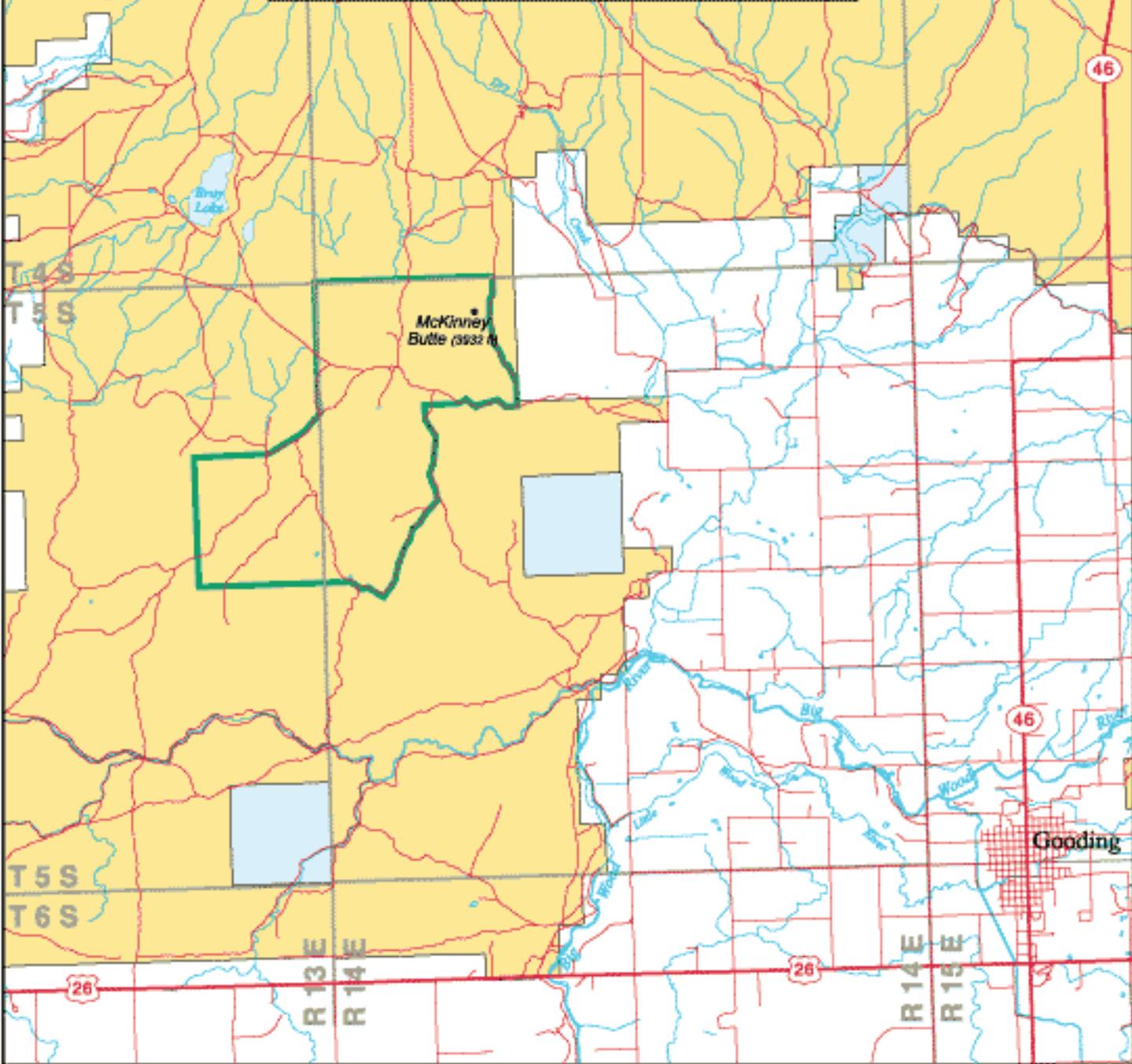
Map Legend

- 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.

MAP 6 MCKINNEY BUTTE PROPOSED ACEC



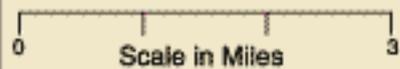
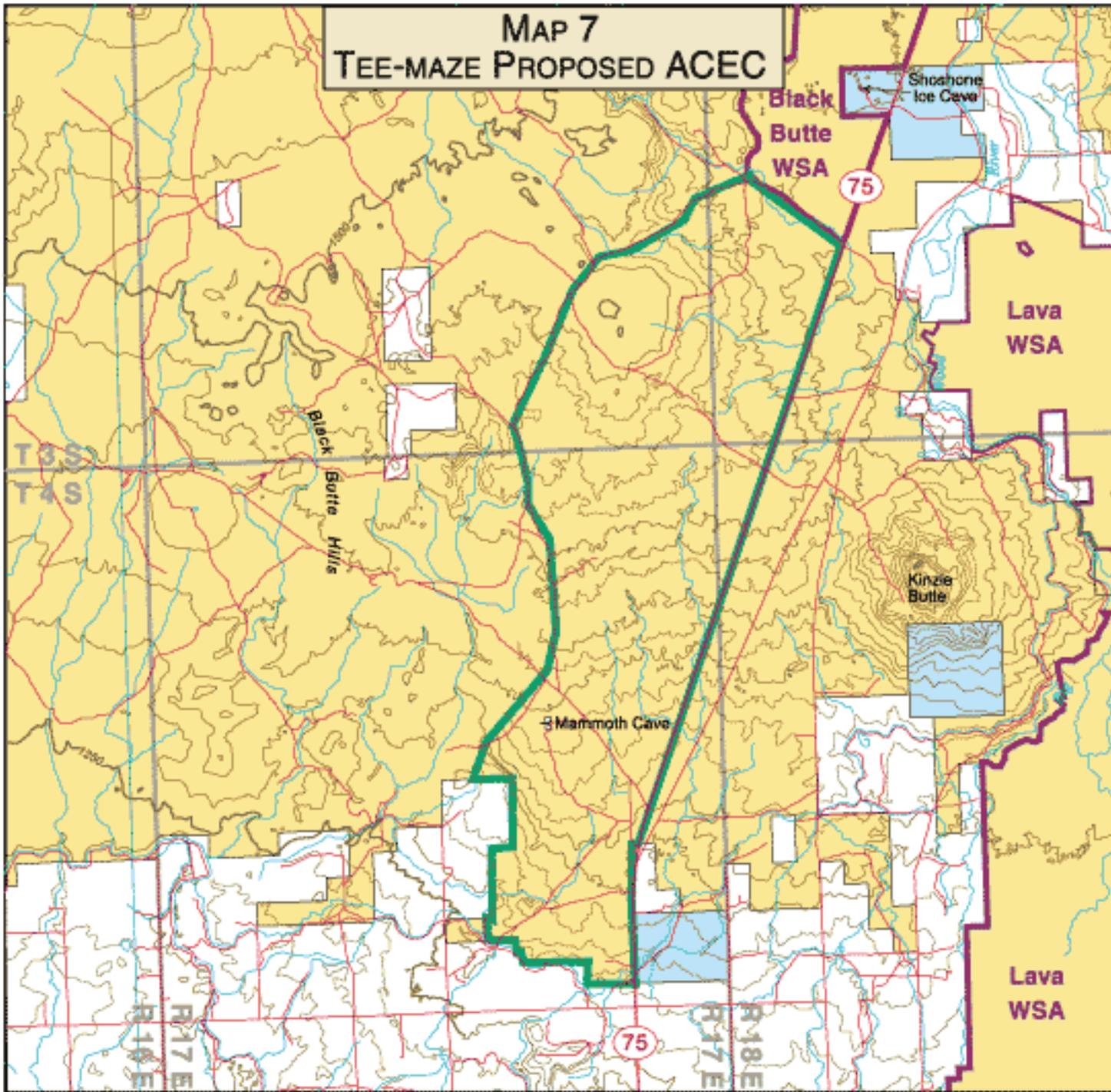
Map Legend

- 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.

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.

MAP 7 TEE-MAZE PROPOSED ACEC



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS



Area of Interest

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.

Amendments Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring plan described below would apply to the proposed amendments. The following steps would be taken to monitor implementation of the approved amendments 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 Attachment 1 (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?

Attachment 1

Lands Identified for Potential Disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)

(Disposal Lands as of July 25, 2000)

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. Some of those lands are no longer available for disposal (such as lands within the recently expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument) or do not meet the proposed amendments' criteria for land tenure adjustment (see pages 16-17); these lands (approximately 4,233.77 acres) are being retained in public ownership. The tracts listed in this attachment to the proposed amendments (approximately 45,739.09 acres) were identified for potential disposal as of July 25, 2000, and may therefore be considered for disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. **(Note:** This attachment identifies the legal description of the tracts; their approximate locations are displayed on Map 2.) Under FLTFA, the monies received from sales or exchanges of lands identified for disposal in land use plans as of July 25, 2000, are 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. **(Note:** The lands identified in this attachment are not the only public lands that could be considered for disposal under the proposed amendments. 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
Section 15:	SW, NESE, NWSE, E2SWSE, SENE, S2SWNE, S2S2NW, W2SWNW, NWSWNW, W2SWSSENW
Section 20:	N2SE
Section 21:	S2, NE, E2NW, SWNW
Section 22:	W2, W2SWSE, W2E2SWSE
Section 28:	NENW, N2NE, SENE

Containing Approximately 1,957.50 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

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 10: SENW, SWNE, N2SE, NESW
 Section 11: NWSW
 Section 34: SW
 Containing Approximately 400 acres

T. 7 S. R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 9: SE, S2NE
 Section 14: NWSW
 Containing Approximately 280 acres

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
 Section 25: S2NW
 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 2,480.35 acres

T. 5 S., R. 16 E., Boise Meridian
 Section 13: NENE
 Section 32: W2NW, NESW, S2NE, SE, E2SW
 Containing Approximately 480 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. 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

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 3,151.49 acres⁺

***Note:** These lands are currently identified for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service only.
Under the proposed amendments 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. 17 E., Boise Meridian

Section 13: Portions south of road NENENENWNW and E2E2E2SENE (6 +/-)

Containing Approximately 6 acres

Appendix A

Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

Public and Tribal Involvement: Scoping and Preparation of Draft Amendments - Public, government agency, and tribal comments received during the scoping period for the amendments were used to determine the scope of the proposed action and alternatives discussed in the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment document, published and distributed in June 2002. The BLM's efforts to involve the public and tribes during scoping included a Federal Register "Notice of Intent," mailings, press releases, web site postings, open house style meetings, presentations, and briefings. The Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment document was distributed to more than 500 individuals, businesses, and government entities. A *Federal Register* notice of the Proposed ACEC Designations was published on June 28, 2002 (pages 43680-43682), followed by a notice of correction (to the comment period end date) published on July 3, 2002 (page 44616).

Public and Tribal Involvement: Preparation of Proposed Amendments - The BLM provided a 60-day comment period on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment from June 28, 2002, to August 27, 2002. Public meetings were held on July 23 in Shoshone, Idaho, and July 24 in Hailey, Idaho, to encourage local residents to ask questions about and comment on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment. Thirty-two comment letters/e-mail messages were submitted during the comment period: two from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, six from State agencies, five from county governments, one from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, four from organizations, and thirteen from individuals. The BLM reviewed and considered these comments before preparing the proposed amendments. A summary of changes to the preferred alternative that were made in response to comments is included on page 2 of this document. A summary of the comments submitted and the BLM's responses is available by contacting the Shoshone Field Office at 400 West F Street in Shoshone, Idaho (Phone: (208) 732-7286) or by e-mail at ID_Shoshone_LUPA@blm.gov.

Consistency with Tribal, Local, State, and Federal Governments/Agencies - 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. The BLM sought to achieve consistency between the proposed amendments and the officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, policies, and programs of tribes, other federal agencies, and State and local governments, as is required by NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1502.16(c)) and BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.3-2). Efforts to achieve consistency included asking the tribes, agencies, and governments for information about their relevant approved or adopted resource-related plans, programs, or policies; briefings for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and U.S. and Idaho Congressional representatives and staff; meetings with County Commissioners and City Councils; and meetings with representatives of State agencies.

Alternative 3 was selected as the BLM's preferred alternative in the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment partly because the BLM believed it to be the most effective means of enabling the Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments to achieve their resource-related planning goals and objectives within reasonable time frames. The majority of Alternative 3's proposed management

direction is carried forward into the proposed plan amendments. Prior to finalizing the proposed amendments, the BLM met with representatives of State agencies (Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Agriculture, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game) to determine whether the State of Idaho's interests and concerns were being addressed in the proposed action. The proposed amendments incorporate several changes to the preferred alternative that were made in order to more completely respond to the needs and concerns of State and local governments.

Consultation - The BLM prepared a Biological Assessment of the BLM's preferred alternative (Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment, Alternative C) and consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on impacts to the Federally listed threatened or endangered species and habitats which occur in the planning area. The Shoshone Field Office received a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which concurred with the BLM's determinations for the listed species in the planning area. Informal consultation on the Shoshone land use plans amendments is considered complete, since no substantial changes were made to the preferred alternative when developing the proposed amendments. The minor changes that were made do not alter the impacts to threatened or endangered species that were described in the Environmental Assessment and Biological Assessment.

Federally recognized Indian tribes having rights to and/or interests in public lands in the planning area were consulted throughout the amendments planning process. Briefings were given to the "Wing and Roots" forum of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (11/10/99) and the Land Use Policy Commission of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (11/24/99, 6/15/00, 3/12/01, and 3/12/02). Both Tribes received copies of the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment and were invited to comment during the 60-day comment period. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' written comments on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment indicated satisfaction with the way that tribal interests were addressed and recognized in the proposed management direction.

The Shoshone Field Office contacted the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to request their comments on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment. SHPO expressed satisfaction with the Draft Amendment/EA's description of cultural resources and the management strategy proposed.

Appendix B

Addendum to Environmental Assessment

ID-076-2002-0004

Comments on the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment pointed out several corrections that should be made to the EA. The following list identifies those errors, omissions, and additions by referring to the page numbers affected and the paragraphs, sentences, or phrases being corrected. The content being revised is highlighted in *italic* print. This appendix constitutes a formal addendum to the EA that was published and distributed in June 2002.

page 4, third paragraph: Add the following sentence (italicized) as the second sentence under the discussion of 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, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Transportation Department are all potentially interested in land tenure adjustments with the BLM that support their management objectives. The Idaho Department of Lands....*”

page 8, second full sentence: Reword the sentence to read as follows: “However, the vegetation in some areas nearer communities has been altered from historic vegetation as a result of *past grazing practices* and changes in fire frequency and severity during the last 50 years.

page 9, following the “State of Idaho Interests” heading: Add the following paragraph discussion as an additional State of Idaho interest: “*General Interest in Land Tenure Adjustments with the BLM - The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Transportation Department have possible future interest in land tenure adjustments with the BLM, although these agencies do not have any specific proposals at present.*”

page 9, paragraph 3, third sentence: Add the following information shown in italic print: “The area near Wendell (*approximately 10,200 acres located below the township line between T6S and T7S*) is referred to locally as “Wendell Phase II” and would add”

page 9, paragraph 3, fourth sentence: Correct the acreage to read as follows: “The second acquisition priority area, near Sid Butte, is an estimated *45,000-acre* area”

page 10, first sentence: Reword the sentence to read as follows: “The Shoshone Field Office BLM currently authorizes *a recharge site in the Shoshone Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and a flood control site (ancillary benefit to the aquifer recharge program) between the communities of Shoshone and Fairfield. These uses are authorized through long term cooperative agreements.*”

page 11, paragraph 1, second sentence: Reword the sentence to read as follows: “All future actions involving water rights shall adhere to *State of Idaho water law* and BLM State-wide water rights policies.”

page 31, last paragraph, first sentence: Reword the sentence to read as follows: “Adherence to *Idaho water law* will be a condition of use on all existing, new, or renewed farming permits, leases, or

agreements.”

page 38, last row (Aquifer Recharge Sites), first column: Add the following phrase: “(*including flood control sites which are ancillary benefits to the aquifer recharge program*)”

page 38, last row (Aquifer Recharge Sites), second column (Existing Management): Reword the first sentence to read as follows: “The existing recharge site *and the existing flood control site (ancillary benefit to the aquifer recharge program)* would continue to be allowed as per the signed Cooperative Agreements.”

page 38, last row (Aquifer Recharge Sites), third column (Alternatives 2 through 4): Reword the beginning of the second sentence to read as follows: “The *existing flood control site authorized in Zone 2 by a signed Cooperative Agreement and the aquifer recharge site* within Zone 2 that has been approved by the BLM

page 70, second row (Alternatives 2-4), first paragraph: Revise the first sentence to read as follows: “The BLM would prefer to transfer ownership of *the existing flood control site in Zone 2 and* potential recharge sites to the State for management into the future.”

page 70, second row (Alternatives 2-4), second paragraph: Revise the paragraph to read as follows: “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 *transfer ownership of* the pending recharge site along the Milner-Gooding Canal and those parcels in Zones 2 and 4 that are *existing and* proposed on BLM lands for use and analyzed in the *NEPA process*, to allow *a public entity* the ability to develop and manage the sites 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.

Page 108, Alternatives 2-4 analysis of impacts to the lands program: Add the following citation to the end of the sentence: “... currently low use in the area (*Clayton, 1992*).”

Page 110, Alternatives 2-4 analysis of impacts to the lands program: Add the following citation to the end of the first sentence “... existing utility right-of-way corridor (*Clayton, 1992*).”

Page 194: Add the following reference as the first entry: *Clayton, Michael, and associates. 1992. Western Regional Corridor Study. Prepared for Western Utility Group, Sierra Pacific Power Company.*

References

Federal Register. December 15, 1999. “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.” Vol. 64, No. 240, pp. 70050-51.

Federal Register. June 28, 2002. “Notice of Proposed ACEC Designations.” Vol. 67, No. 125, pp. 43680-43682.

Federal Register. July 3, 2002. “Notice of Correction.” Vol. 67, No. 128, p. 44616.

USDI - BLM. 1999. “Upper Snake River District Cave Management Plan.” Idaho Falls, Idaho.

_____. June 2002. “Draft Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans for Land Tenure Adjustment and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.” Environmental Assessment # ID-076-2002-0004. Shoshone, Idaho: Shoshone Field Office, BLM.