

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:</p> <p>(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>