The seasonal occupancy restrictions on leasing do not significantly limit mineral exploration and development opportunities. However, under the no surface occupancy restriction, up to 1,130 acres are beyond the reach of directional drilling operations. These acres and the acres closed to leasing total 29,030 acres or 3 percent of the resource area unavailable for the development of fluid leasable minerals in management areas 4,5,7, and 9. All of these lands are prospectively valuable for oil and gas and about 50 of the acres are in the Wyoming-Utah-Idaho portion of the Overthrust Belt Oil and Gas Province within which are producing fields. About 8 percent of these lands are also prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. The no surface occupancy leasing and no lease restrictions significantly limit the availability of lands for the development of potential oil, gas and geothermal resources.

The potential for the development of locatable minerals in 97 percent of the lands closed to mining claims is low. However, the 4,300 acres under the USBR withdrawals along the Snake River's South Fork are potential sources of placer gold. For reasons discussed in the summary for Alternative A, the USBR withdrawals significantly limit the availability of lands for the development of placer gold.

The salable mineral closures have no significant impact on the development of mineral materials.

Forestry

Under this alternative, 569 acres of the 14,410 acres of commercial forest land would be removed from the timber base due to proposed land sale/exchanges under the lands and realty program. An additional 95 acres of woodland would also be removed from the woodland base for the same reason.

These reductions in both C.F.L. and woodland would have only minor adverse impacts on the availability of sawtimber, fuelwood and other forest products. Impacts would be essentially the same as in Alternative A.

Livestock

Under this alternative, the stocking rate would be 108,835 AUMs. This is a 23 percent increase from the current 5 year average and a 5 percent increase from current active preference. The long term stocking rate would be 127,423 AUMs. This is a 17 percent increase from the initial stocking rate. About 13,076 acres would be open for possible transfer. This would result in the loss of 2,941 AUMs. Sixty-one allotments would be affected. A total of 28 allotments would be eliminated and 14 allotments would be significantly reduced but not eliminated.

There would be approximately 164,000 acres of brush control, 27,000 acres of seeding, 165 water developments and 140 miles of fencing. The brush control would change 164,000 acres of low, good, fair, poor, and undisturbed ecological condition range to good. The seedings would change 27,000 acres of fair and poor ecological condition to disturbed. Existing disturbed acres by wildfire and prescribed burns would change to good ecological range condition.

The long term ecological range condition is expected to be 1 percent excellent, 66 percent good, 18 percent fair, 2 percent poor, 12 percent disturbed, and 1 percent unclassified (see Appendix B, page 14).

The long-term trend would be expected to be 96 percent static and 4 percent downward. Brush control, disturbed (wildfire and prescribed burns) and seeding acres would be expected to stabilize at static trend. The downward trend areas would continue to be downward as undesirable plant species density would continue to increase. Range improvements and intensive management with appropriate season of use and livestock distribution changes are expected to allow for the long term stocking rates while maintaining the long term ecological range condition.

Wildlife

Elk use would change from using 20,553 AUMs to 13,476 AUMs, mule deer from 7,019 AUMs to 5,043 AUMs, moose from 3,204 to 1,897 AUMs and antelope from 4,283 to 3,404 AUMs. These decreases in AUMs are a result of direct forage competition with livestock, behavioral intolerances of some wildlife species to heavy livestock concentrations, extensive brush control projects, and the transfer of public lands from BLM management.

Land transfers would remove up to 30 percent of the other upland game bird habitat, 19 percent of the sage grouse brood rearing habitat, 10 percent of the whitetail deer habitat, and 9 percent of the antelope winter range from BLM management. This could have a significant adverse impact on these game species. Other wildlife species habitat would also be adversely affected by this program. This is a worst case analysis (see Chapter 4, page 2).

Habitat condition would be adversely affected for all wildlife species under this alternative. Antelope winter range would change from 8 percent to 34 percent unsatisfactory, sage grouse strutting/nesting from 9 percent to 40 percent unsatisfactory, elk summer range from 9 percent to 22 percent unsatisfactory, sharptail grouse habitat from 10 percent to 40 percent unsatisfactory, and big game winter range from 13 percent to 37 percent unsatisfactory. This would be a result of increased livestock stocking, extensive brush control projects and continued degredation of riparian habitat.

Minimum oil and gas leasing stipulations would not provide adequate protection of some wildlife habitats. This would cause a reduction in suitable habitat. Locatable and salable mineral development could also decrease the amount of suitable habitat.

Riparian habitat that is unsatisfactory due to livestock grazing would continue to decline. Habitat that is marginally satisfactory would be rapidly decreased in quality so that it would be unsatisfactory. Satisfactory areas would decline in condition and some would become unsatisfactory.

Water Quality/Fisheries

Under the production alternative, areas presently in good or excellent condition (52.9 miles) could be expected to remain in that condition since few stocking increases are planned where livestock would have access to stream banks. A total of 12.3 miles of Edie, Irving and Indian Creeks in management area 1 in need of management to enhance fisheries would not be managed under this alternative. These areas, presently in fair to poor condition, would continue in downward trend or stabilize in poor condition. The 19.2 miles of streams with sensitive soils, including Willow Creek, Grays Lake Outlet and

Sand Creek, would be managed to protect or improve these streams. Fencing would be used to improve reaches on Willow and Sand Creeks.

Soils

As vegetation cover is reduced by increased use and grazing of this alternative, the overall erosion rate is expected to increase. Thirty one allotments on loamy soils could have erosion rates greater than 5 tons per acre. Fifteen allotments on sandy soils could remove enough vegetation by combined range and wildlife use to exceed erosion rates of 5 to 8 tons per acre, damaging the soil resources.

ORV damage in Kelly Canyon and on the Willow Creek drainage would continue and could increase.

Fire, brush control and seedings in soil associations 2,3,4,10,14, and 16 would only have a short term effect on wind and water erosion. Heavy short term and some long term effects could be expected on soils in associations 1,6,11,12, and 13 where water erosion rates would exceed 5 tons per acre. However, such activities on sandy soils, with southeastern Idaho winds, could accelerate wind erosion to about 25 tons per acre and sandy loam soils in soil associations 5 and 7 and to about 40 tons per acre on loamy sand soils of associations 8 and 9 when all vegetation cover is removed. The impacts here would have both short and long term effects. As sandy soils become airborne by wind action, the fine soil fraction is sifted from the sand and the material is redeposited as sands and dunes.

Small project developments will generally only have a small short term erosion effect except for areas of heavy cattle trampling and maybe some reservoirs.

Recreation and ORV Management

Recreation opportunity classes would be the same as Alternative A. The 14,759 acre Snake River System and the 36,900 acre St. Anthony Sand Dunes complex would be designated special recreation management areas. The remaining lands in the Resource Area would be identified as an extensive recreation management area. Management plans would be prepared that focus on development and increased recreation use. Specific actions would be implemented to protect and enhance the recreation opportunity classes. Special attention will be necessary in preparing a plan for the Snake River System to insure that all land and resource managing agencies are fully involved throughout the process.

The sixteen existing undeveloped and unmaintained recreation sites would be developed, maintained and managed to accomodate future day and overnight use. Impacts from litter, inadequate sanitation and uncontrolled motorized use would be minimized. One mile of trail would be constructed on North Menan Butte to provide additional opportunities for nature study. These developments would help meet the current needs and projections (both short and long-term) for recreation facilities shown in the 1983 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Developed recreation use and quality would increase as sites are constructed and managed. Dispersed ORV recreation would be enhanced and increase at a greater rate due to developments near the sand dunes. Impacts from ORV management would be the same as Alternative A.

The proposed disposals of public land would have a minor impact on dispersed recreation opportunities. A small percentage of the upland game bird hunting occurs on lands identified for disposal. Impacts would be low because most of the parcels are small and generally inaccessible to the public. However, long-term impacts to hunting could occur because these lands provide upland game bird habitat. Bird population decreases would adversely affect hunting opportunities.

The impacts on recreation from minerals activities, forestry and grazing would be the same as Alternative A.

Habitat improvement of 4.7 miles of stream would increase fish populations and could enhance fishing opportunities by increasing the fishing success ratio. However, the effect on recreation cannot be accurately quantified because success is only one of several factors that affect the fishing experience.

Wilderness

Under Alternative B, none of the Sand Mountain WSA would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness.

The impacts of this alternative would be the same as Alternative A, except that ORV use is expected to increase substantially. The increase would be attributed to developing the sands as an ORV park, emphasizing extensive use.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource site impacts should increase significantly. Livestock trampling impacts should increase in proportion to increased grazing allotment use levels. This would increase cultural resource site surface modifications and horizontal artifact displacement. Stratigraphic integrity could also be affected. Of the 165 identified cultural sites, 95 would be directly affected by the 44 percent long-term grazing use increases. An unknown number of cultural resource sites would be affected by extensive vegetation treatment projects. Standard operating procedures should mitigate effects on identified sites. But, production pressures and budget restrictions could handicap inventory and mitigation efforts. Increases in acres open to ORV use and increases in other resource activities could also directly and indirectly impact cultural resource sites. Lack of mineral withdrawals and closures would expose an estimated 20 sites to possible damage. Known and unidentified sites would become more accessible and subject to unrestricted, unauthorized artifact collection.

Economics

Lands

This alternative contains 12,746 acres of transfer lands and 12,880 acres of agricultural entry. Lands sale would generate net revenue of $892,200 to the government. The lands in the agricultural entry category would generate

direct income of $592,000 if developed. There would also be 48 direct jobs generated (BLM 1984). Annual expenditures for seed, fertilizer, fuel, etc., would amount to $2,476,000 (BLM 1984, Powell and Lindeborg 1981). This would convert to secondary income and employment of $982,700 and 99 jobs. The direct earnings increase would amount to 1 percent of current farm income in the RMP area. The secondary earnings increase would amount to 6 percent of the current retail trade income in the RMP area.

The transfer of 25,626 acres out of federal ownership would cost the affected counties $12,800 in lost federal payments of various types (PILT, Grazing, Mineral Leasing, Timber, etc.). In turn their revenues from property taxes would increase by $25,000. This would be .03 percent of the total revenues of the RMP area counties (Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton Counties 1983).

Forestry

Impacts to forestry with this alternative are the same as alternative A.

Recreation

With this alternative there would be roughly 7,500 motorized recreation visitor days in the long term. The annual expenditures associated with this level of use would be $95,700. This would convert to earnings and employment of $38,000 and 4 jobs. Big game hunting would generate annual expenditures of $1,917,500 (92,545 hunter days x $20.72). This would convert to earnings and employment of $761,000 and 77 jobs. Sagegrouse hunting would generate annual expenditures of $3,100 (499 hunter days x $6.14). This would be earnings of $1,200. No jobs would be generated from this activity. The total direct income and employment generated by these recreation activities would be $800,200 and 81 jobs. This would be 5 percent of the RMP area's retail trade income. The secondary income and employment would be $966,800 and 98 jobs. This would be 6 percent of the RMP area's retail trade income. Total income (direct and secondary) would be $1,767,100 (10% of retail trade) while employment would be 179.

Livestock

The initial livestock stocking levels would be 108,835 AUMs. This would go up to 127,423 AUMs in the long term. This long-term stocking level would represent direct income and employment of $703,100 and 58 jobs. This would represent 8 percent of the RMP area livestock income and 1 percent of farm income. Secondary income and employment would amount to $1,087,500 and 110 jobs. This would be 6 percent of the retail trade income.

In order to attain this long-term level of grazing use, approximately $2,772,700 in range improvements would be required.

Grazing fee collections would be distributed in the following manner:

Range Improvement Fund	$127,423
Federal Treasury	$ 95,567
State of Idaho	$ 31,856
TOTAL	$254,846

This level of AUM use would represent capital value of between $7,189,100 and $31,857,000 (Boly 1980, Fowler and Gray 1980).

Summary

Total direct and secondary income of $5,245,400 would be generated by this alternative. This would be 2.4 percent of the total Medicine Lodge RMP area current income. Employment generated by this alternative would be 503 jobs or 2.8 percent of total RMP area employment.

ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Lands

This alternative would result in a more active land tenure adjustment program than at present. Sales and exchanges would be utilized to arrive at a balanced program for improving management efficiency and for acquiring valuable public lands.

Included in the total transfer areas are 2,597 acres identified for agricultural disposal only. If these areas meet the criteria for agricultural disposal, the following positive impacts may occur:

- Place land in a higher use such as agricultural. This could benefit the local economy by making more land available for agricultural production.

- Increase local property tax revenues.

Under agricultural disposal, the following adverse impacts may occur:

- Loss of resource values, primarily for wildlife range and recreation.

- High cost of processing applications.

- Potential for lowering crop prices if new farm lands go into production.

- Water withdrawal from the underground aquifer could add to declining water levels.

The remaining transfer areas would be analyzed for their exchange potential before being considered for sale. The following positive impacts may occur in a land exchange program:

- Provide opportunities for acquiring valuable public land resources, primarily wildlife and recreation.

- Improve manageability of existing public land for livestock grazing and by eliminating private inholdings with potential for conflicting uses.

- Provide public access to important resource values.

- Reduce management cost and improve efficiency by eliminating isolated tracts and blocking federal lands.

The major adverse impacts to an extensive land exchange program would be the cost. Exchanges are time consuming and costly to process.

Disposal of the transfer areas through public sale could result in the following positive impacts:

-Decrease management costs to the BLM because sales are relatively easy to process and management efficiency would increase by eliminating isolated tracts.

-Potential for placing land in a higher use such as agricultural, commercial or residential.

-Provide a one-time payment to the treasury.

-Increase local property tax revenues.

-Opportunity for ranchers to block up their holdings.

-Can be used to solve existing unauthorized use.

Sales could result in the following adverse impacts:

-Reduce the potential for future land acquisitions by depleting the stock of land available for future exchanges.

-Economic strains on person currently using the land but who cannot afford to purchase it.

Lower property values if a large scale sale program occurs.

Minerals

As compared to Alternative A, this alternative has 26 percent more acres under standard stipulations, 7 percent more under seasonal occupancy restrictions and 32 percent less acres with the no surface occupancy restriction open to fluid mineral leasing. About 13 percent more acres are open to solid mineral leasing under standard stipulations. About 79 percent less acres are closed to solid and fluid mineral leasing. About 0.8 percent less lands are open to locatable mineral entry and 9 percent more are open to minerals materials disposals. In this alternative, 97 percent of the area is open to solid and fluid mineral leasing, 85 percent is open to mining claims and 94 percent is open to salable minerals use.

The seasonal occupancy restrictions on leasing do not impact mineral exploration and development opportunities. However, under the NSO restriction up to 1,900 acres are beyond the reach of directional drilling operations. These acres and the acres closed to leasing total 30,200 acres or 3 percent of the resource area available for the development of fluid leasable minerals in management areas 4,5,7, and 9. All of these lands are prospectively valuable for oil and gas and about 1,000 of the acres are in the Wyoming-Utah-Idaho portion of the Overthrust Belt Oil and Gas Province, within which are producing fields. About 9 percent of these lands are also prospectively valuable for goethermal resources. The NSO leasing and no-lease restrictions impact the availability of lands for the development of potential oil, gas and geothermal resources.

The potential for the development of locatable minerals in 94 percent of the lands closed to mining claims is low. However, about 8,000 acres in management area 9, within which are gravel deposits that are potential sources of placer gold, are presently closed or recommended for closure in this alternative. These lands are USBR withdrawals and public lands along the Main, South and Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Three sites in the area produced roughly 600 ounces of gold from the 1870's to the 1950's. At the present time, there are 19 mining claims in the area under active exploration. This closure of lands to locatable mineral entry would adversely impact the availability of lands for exploration and development of potential placer gold resources.

The salable mineral closures have no significant impact on the development of mineral materials.

Forestry

Under this alternative, 1,114 acres of the 14,410 acres of commercial forest land would be set aside due to TPCC inventory, multiple use restrictions or proposed land sales/exchanges. An additional 1,966 acres would be handled as deferred lands in the allowable cut calculations due to economic reasons. The remaining 11,330 acres would be harvested under the standard operating procedures.

Managing 11,330 acres of commercial forest land in the harvestable base for the production of forest products would result in a potential sustainable allowable cut of approximately 3.9 MMBF/decade.

Under this alternative, 2,925 acres of woodland along the Snake River would be unavailable for the harvest of forest products. Managing the remaining 9,847 acres of woodland would make additional forested acreage available for the harvest of sawtimber, fuelwood and minor forest products.

Harvest practices, including clearcutting, shelterwood and selective cutting would influence vegetative cover on approximately 130 acres per year.

Other significant impacts of forest management are related to access caused by road construction. These impacts may be positive or negative, depending on the need to make specific public land available for increased public use, and on the need to protect wildlife or other resource values from increased human disturbance.

Forest development practices such as thinning, planting and the use of herbicides and pesticides would improve stocking and growth potential of forest stands and decrease pest and disease problems in these stands.

Grazing would influence forest management primarily by endangering the establishment of regeneration. This influence can be partially mitigated through control of season of use and livestock distribution.

Loss of timber production in response to wildlife, watershed and lands and realty needs involves 1,114 acres. This amounts to an average reduction in yield of 58 MBF/year.

Livestock

The stocking rate would be 100,449 AUMs under this alternative. This is a 14 percent increase from the current 5 year average use and a 3 percent reduction from the current active preference. Thirty two allotments would receive reductions and 13 allotments would receive increases from the current active preference. The long term stocking rate is expected to be 107,249 AUMs. This is a 7 percent increase from the initial stocking rate. About 5,726 acres would be open for possible transfer, resulting in the loss of 1,092 AUMs. There would be 56 allotments impacted. Fourteen allotments would be eliminated and 6 allotments would be significantly impacted but not eliminated.

There would be 70,000 acres of brush control, 10,000 acres of seeding, 85 water developments, and 115 miles of fencing. The brush control would change 70,000 acres of fair and poor ecological range condition to good. The seedings would change 10,000 acres of fair, poor and disturbed ecological range condition to disturbed. The long term ecological range condition is expected be 1 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 31 percent fair, 3 percent poor, 10 percent disturbed, and 1 percent unclassified.

The long term trend is expected to be 88 percent static and 12 percent downward (see Alternative B). Range improvements, intensive management, and appropriate season of use and livestock distribution changes are expected to allow for the long term stocking rates while maintaining the long term ecological range condition.

Wildlife

Under this alternative, there would be a 5,694 acre loss of wildlife habitat from the public land base through land transfer. This loss would affect antelope, sage grouse, elk, big game, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, upland game birds, and forest grouse habitats. The loss ranges from 1 percent to 7 percent of the various species habitat acreage. The main impact would be on the upland game bird populations in management area 4. Approximately 6 percent of the BLM-managed grizzly bear habitat would be adversely impacted. The BLM-managed grizzly bear habitat makes up only a small percent of the total habitat in the Targhee National Forest and Yellowstone National Park. The only alternative to mitigate this impact would be to use exchanges to maintain public land base of equal or higher value habitat. This is a worst case analysis.

Mineral development would have a minimal impact on all wildlife species with the exception of locatable mineral mining. Approximately 4,160 acres of big game winter range could be lost due to travertine mining. This activity removes all vegetation from the surface and eventually goes to patent to an individual. Reclamation may or may not follow mining. Oil and gas standard operating procedures provide adequate protection with seasonal occupancy and no surface occupancy stipulations.

By following the standard operating procedures for timber and wildlife, wildlife habitat should be maintained. If cover regeneration does not occur after one of the entries on a 3 stage cut, the forestry program will be self-limited and the remaining stand should meet wildlife needs.

No significant changes would occur to the already high percent satisfactory range for the following species: antelope, elk, big game winter range, peregrine, big horn sheep, mountain goat, and forest grouse. There would be a significant improvement of the sage grouse brood rearing areas (60% to 76% satisfactory). This is mainly a result of implementation of riparian management techniques that improve riparian habitat. Bald eagle habitat would be improved from 65 percent satisfactory to 75 percent satisfactory due to habitat improvement projects and resource allocations for the species. Forest grouse habitat would decline from 89 percent satisfactory to 80 percent satisfactory as a result of Douglas-fir logging. There would be a 31 percent improvement in moose habitat attributed to the improvement of riparian habitat.

Additional high quality wildlife areas would be protected due to ORV restrictions placed on fragile soil areas. Seasonal ORV restrictions would be employed to protect crucial big game winter ranges.

Utility and transportation corridor restrictions would help eliminate future development conflicts.

Development of the proposed ACECs would provide for additional management guidance in crucial wildlife areas.

Water and Water Quality

Under this alternative, the 52.9 miles of stream presently in good or excellent condition would be expected to remain in that condition or improve very slightly due to water development and improved stock distribution. The 11.3 miles of Edie, Irving and Indian Creeks in management area 1 would be managed to improve fishery and riparian values. More emphasis would be given to drift fencing and use of grazing systems and grazing management than under the protection alternative, which calls for nearly double the miles of fencing than this alternative. About 19.2 miles of streams with sensitive soils (Willow Creek, Grays Lake Outlet, Sand Creek) would be managed for protection or enhancement under this alternative utilizing about 3 miles of fencing.

Soils

As vegetation cover increases by reduced use and grazing of this alternative, the overall erosion rate is expected to decrease. Fourteen allotments on loamy soils could have erosion rates greater than 5 tons per acre. Eight allotments on sandy soils could remove enough vegetation by combined range and wildlife use to exceed erosion rates of 5 to 8 tons per acre, damaging the soil resources.

Damaged areas from former ORV use will be restored and protected.

Fire, brush control and seedings in soil associations 2,3,4,10,14, and 16 will only have a short term effect on wind and water erosion. Heavy short term and some long term effects will be on soils in associations 1,6,11,12, and 13 where water erosion rates will exceed 5 tons per acre. However, such activities on sandy soils, with southeastern Idaho winds, could accelerate wind erosion to about 25 tons per acre, on sandy loam soils in soil associations 5 and 7 to about 40 tons per acre and on loamy sand soils of associations 8 and 9 if all vegetation cover is removed. The impacts here will have both short and long term effects. As sandy soils become airborne by

wind action, the fine soil fraction is sifted from the sand and the material is redeposited as sands and dunes. Sand dunes in the area greater than three to four feet deep no longer support vegetation growth. Sand dunes in this area have wind erosion rates of about 40 tons per acre per year. Without man-made irrigation to restore vegetation on sand dune areas, this effect becomes an irreversible impact as already shown by the existing sand dunes in the area. This assessment represents a worst case analysis.

Small project developments will generally only have a small short term erosion effect except for areas of heavy cattle trampling and maybe some reservoirs.

Recreation and ORV Management

Opportunities would not be provided in the primitive ROS class.

The 14,759 acre Snake River System and the 36,900 acre St. Anthony Sand Dunes complex would be designated special recreation management areas. The remainining lands in the resource area would be identified as an extensive recreation management area. Management plans would be prepared that focus on maintaining the ROS classes and developing recreation sites where the heaviest use occurs. Special attention will be necessary in preparing a plan for the Snake River System to insure that all land and resource managing agencies are fully involved throughout the process.

Six of the existing undeveloped and unmaintained recreation sites would be developed, maintained and managed to accomodate day and overnight use. Impacts from litter, inadequate sanitation and uncontrolled motorized use would be minimized. One mile of trail would be constructed on North Menan Butte to provide additional opportunities for nature study. These developments would help to some degree meet the current needs and projections (both short and long-term) for recreation facilities shown in the 1983 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Plan. Developed recreation use and quality would increase on sites that are developed.

Dispersed ORV recreation would be eliminated on 43,007 acres. The most severe impacts would occur on the St. Anthony Sand Dunes (26,660 acres) and in the Stinking Springs area (4,900 acres). It is estimated that about 70 percent of all ORV recreation in the resource area occurs in these areas and closure would cause a shifting of this activity to other lands less suitable for motorized recreation. This is particularly true for the sand dunes areas.

Under this alternative, more areas would be zoned for more restrictive minerals management. This will give added protection to nonmotorized types of recreation and help preserve the natural appearance of the landscape, which is generally important to all recreationists.

The impacts on recreation from forest management would be similar to those in Alternative A. However, added restrictions on timber harvesting would benefit nonmotorized forms of recreation.

Wildlife and fisheries management, under this alternative, would increase populations of big game and fish, which could improve the success ratio for sportsmen. However, the effect cannot be accurately quantified since success is only one of several factors that affect the hunting experience.

Wilderness

Under Alternative C, none of the Sand Mountain WSA would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness.

The impacts of this alternative would be the same as Alternative A, except that restrictions on ORV travel would protect vegetated lands in the WSA. Designated routes would be identified for motorized access to the barren sands where motorized use would remain open.

Cultural Resources

Long-term and short-term livestock trampling should increase, but this gain would be less than Alternative A. At least ninety-five sites are located in allotments affected by an anticipated 26 percent livestock use increase. Some soil erosion and artifact exposure, breakage and displacement is expected. But, loss rates would be less than half of Alternative B. This alternative would reduce available ORV acreage by about 25 percent and protect an estimated 20 sites with mining claim and mineral materials closures.

Economics

Lands

This alternative contains 5,694 acres of transfer lands and 2,595 acres of agricultural entry. Land sales would generate net revenue of $398,600 to the federal government. The lands in the agricultural entry category would generate direct income of $118,400 if developed. There would also be 10 direct jobs generated (BLM 1984). Annual expenditures for seed, fertilizer, fuel, etc., would amount to $495,200 (BLM 1984, Powell and Lindeborg 1981). This would convert to secondary income and employment of $196,500 and 20 jobs. The direct earnings increase would amount to less than 1 percent of current RMP area farm income. The secondary earnings increase would amount to 1 percent of the current retail trade income in the RMP area.

The transfer of 8,289 acres out of federal ownership would cost the affected counties $4,200 in lost federal payments of various types (PILT, Grazing, Mineral Leasing, Timber, etc.). In turn, their revenues from property taxes would increase by $6,100 (Dornfest 1984) for a net gain of $1,900. This would be .004% of the total revenues of the RMP area counties (Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties 1983).

Forestry

With this alternative there would be 0.39 MMBF of timber cut each year (3.9 MMBF per decade). This would generate revenues of $7,800 (390,000 board feet x $20/100). This level of timber harvest would amount to approximately 3 jobs and $41,200 in wages. This would be less than 1 percent of the manufacturing income in the RMP area. Secondary earnings and employment would be $39,700 and 4 jobs. This would be less than 1 percent of the RMP area's retail trade income.