PART III

APPENDIXES

PART III

APPENDIXES

A. Planning

B. Livestock Grazing

C. Soils

D. Recreation

E. Wilderness

F. Management Area Summaries

G. Monitoring and Evaluation

H. Economics

I. Wildlife Habitat

APPENDIX A

PLANNING

MEDICINE LODGE PLANNING CRITERIA

General Planning Criteria

The general planning criteria for the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan are as follows:

1. Economic and Social Considerations. BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for specific management action involved.

2. Coordination with Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes. BLM will coordinate its review of detailed management plans and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies and programs of other agencies, state and local governments and Indian tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed, as necessary, to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments and Indian tribes.

3. Existing Laws, Regulations and BLM Policy. BLM will follow existing Federal legislation, regulations executive orders; National goals objectives and priorities; Resource management issues and public land use needs as expressed or perceived at the national level; National level agreements with the other agencies, and the results of coordination with Governors of the various states.

4. Future needs and demand for existing or potential resource commodities and values.

5. Public Input.

6. Public Welfare and Safety.

7. Past and Present Use of Public and Adjacent Lands.

8. Quantity and Quality of Noncommodity Resource Values

9. Environmental Reviews. An environmental analysis will be undertaken prior to approval of any project involving public lands. If no significant impact is identified, the analysis will be documented as an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. If the analysis suggests a major federal action which would significantly affect the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared upon State Director direction.

Program Criteria

In addition to the general criteria listed above, the following criteria will apply to individual program decisions.

1. Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations

   All BLM wilderness recommendations, both "suitable" for preservation as wilderness and "nonsuitable" must be justified on the basis of the criteria and quality standards included in BLM Wilderness Policy, Policies Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands (see Federal Register, February 3, 1982).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

   ACECs may be designated in resource plans. These areas are defined as "Areas 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 other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." The identification of a potential ACEC must not, in itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. ACECs are delineated where both of the following criteria can be satisfied:

   a. Relevance. There shall be present a historic, cultural or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource, or other natural system or process; or natural hazard.

   b. Importance. The above described value, resource, system, process, or hazard shall be important. This requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. A natural hazard can be important if it is a significant threat to human life or property.

3. Forage Distribution

   Forage will be distributed in the RMP among domestic livestock and wildlife. Those distributions will provide a basis for the issuance of grazing decisions on individual allotments according to BLM regulations and policy. There are four special criteria for forage distribution:

   a. Rangeland must be suitable for domestic livestock grazing.

   b. Plant maintenance, site protection and stability requirements must be met.

   c. Adequate forage must be provided to support wildlife at levels established by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game through consultation with the BLM.

d. Allotments will be categorized in the resource management plan and environmental impact statement based on similar characteristics. Allotment categories will be used to set priorities for distributing funds and personnel. The three allotment categories -- maintain, improve and custodial -- are discussed below.

Maintain Allotments where the principal objective is to maintain or improve the existing situation. Present range conditions and trend is satisfactory and meets the current management goals. Present management is meeting or improving the principal management goals for the allotment. The allotment has moderate or high production potential, but has limited opportunity for economic return from improved production. Livestock use is the primary use in the maintain allotments, and there are no or very limited land use or resource conflicts. Such conflicts could be critical wildlife areas or habitat for threatened or endangered species, or critical watershed areas furnishing water to towns for human consumption. Other possible conflicts include areas of intensive mineral production that conflict with livestock grazing.

Improve Allotments where the principal objective is to improve existing resource conditions. Present range condition and trend is unsatisfactory and does not meet the management goals for the allotment. Improved management is needed to increase production, correct a management problem such as distribution, or to improve condition and trend within the allotment. Livestock use may or may not be the primary use of the allotment, however; other resource values and uses exist that may present existing or potential resource conflicts requiring special management attention. Proposed range improvements have potential for positive economic return through increased resource production.

Custodial Allotments where the principal short-term objective is to prevent deterioration of current resource conditions by managing land in a custodial manner. Present management is maintaining range condition at current management goal and no or limited resource conflicts occur.

The land use plan indicates that public land within these allotments may be subject to disposal within a short (5-10 year) period. The ratio of public land to private or other land within the allotment is small (about 20 percent) or an insignificant amount of the total.

The soils in the allotment lack the potential for increased vegetation production through management or development. The cost of such development would be so excessive as to prevent a positive economic return on the public investment.

Range Improvements, Grazing Systems, Other Range Management Practices. A variety of range improvements, grazing systems and other range mangement practices may be considered in conjunction with livestock management on individual allotments. Such practices will be based on the range management category (maintain, improve, custodial) in which the allotment has been placed and will be formulated in consultation, coordination and

cooperation with livestock operators and other interested parties.

4. Geology, Energy and Minerals

a. Geology, Energy and Minerals Management. BLM will manage geological, energy and minerals resources on the public lands. Geological resources will be managed so that significant scientific, recreational and educational values will be maintained or enhanced. The public lands are available for exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and federal and state law.

b. Location of Mining Claims. Location of mining claims in accordance with the mining law is nondiscretionary. The public lands are available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawl are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

c. Leasing and Sale. Energy and minerals leasing and sale is discretionary. Approval of an application for lease or sale is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources. The public lands will be considered for energy and minerals leasing and sale.

5. Forest Management

Public lands containing commerical timber or other forest products such as firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees are available for harvest, except when expressly closed in the RMP. Some areas may also be subject to special restrictions to protect resources.

6. Recreation

Recreation Management. BLM manages recreation on the public lands. Areas where recreation is a principal management objective are designated in the RMP. The general types and intensity of use are also established for those areas.

Recreation Facilities. The BLM develops and maintains various recreation facilities on the public lands, including campgrounds, picnic areas and boat launches. Major sites for those recreation facilities designed for high intensity use are designated in the RMP.

Rivers Proposed for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. All rivers on the Nationwide River Inventory will be evaluated as suitable or unsuitable for addition to the National River System. Criteria for the valuation are the guidelines prepared by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in 1970.

Motorized Vehicle Use. Where control of off-road-vehicle use is required, public lands will be designated open, limited or closed to motorized vehicles. In making these determinations, the BLM will consider public safety, conflict resolution, resource protection requirements and user access requirements. See also BLM Manual Section 8342.

7. Fish and Wildlife. BLM will manage fish and wildlife habitat on the public lands. A variety of methods may be employed, including management actions designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, inclusion of stipulations or conditions in BLM leases, licenses and permits, and development of detailed plans for fish and wildlife habitat management. Priority will be given to threatened or endangered species habitat. All BLM management actions will comply with federal and state laws concerning fish and wildlife.

   Management guidelines established in the Sands Habitat Management Plan, South Fork Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Tex Creek Cooperative Agreement will be followed. Management activities will be closely coordinated with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

8. Water and Water Quality

   a. Retain riparian areas and water courses in public ownership.

   b. Streams and wetlands will be managed to restore, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of aquatic habitat on public lands. Protective measures will occur on a priority basis as funding permits. The following criteria will be used to prioritize the order of protection of wetland/riparian areas:
      1. Areas providing habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive species.
      2. Areas that contain crucial or key wildlife habitat.
      3. Waters presently having productive fisheries.
      4. Waters essential for the maintenance of water quality.
      5. Rangeland management grazing systems will be implemented to protect or improve riparian/wetland areas.

9. Fire Management

   a. Fire will be considered as a management tool on the public lands.
   b. The potential for using fire as a management tool to accomplish resource objectives will be considered.
   c. Areas of full suppression, limited suppression and prescribed fire will be identified.
   d. Appropriate constraints will be developed to protect or enhance sensitive and significant resource values.
   e. The RMP will indicate how wildfire will be used when the prescription is met.

TABLE A-1

Areas Restricted to Development of Utility and Transportation Rights-of-Way

LOCATION	RESOURCE VALUES PRESENT	TYPE OF RESTRICTION
Management Area 1- Medicine Lodge	Recreation, scenic, big game & upland game bird habitat.	Utility development confined to existing corridor.
Management Area 4- Game Creek	Recreation, scenic, big game wintering range, watershed.	No new development of roads or rights-of-way.
Management Area 5- Sands HMP	Big game wintering range.	No new road development. Maintenance limited to existing authorized routes. Construction of transmission lines subject to seasonal restrictions.
Management Area 6- Sand Mountain	Recreation, scenic, big game wintering range.	No new development of roads or rights-of-way.
Management Area 9- Snake River (Pine Creek to Heise)	Big game wintering range, waterfowl, bald eagle nesting, recreation, scenic.	No new development of roads or rights-of-way.