Standard Operating Proceedure

The following management guidance will be used by BLM in implementing the plan. The standard operating procedures will be used in all of the day to day BLM operations as well as in carrying out the management decisions in the resource management plan.

Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), BLM-administered lands were given Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. BLM will manage all public lands as Class II unless they are reclassified by the state as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). Administrative actions on the public lands will comply with the air quality classification for that specific area.

Allowable Uses

The public lands will be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA. Any valid use, occupancy and development of the public lands, including but not limited to those requiring rights-of-way, leases and licenses will be considered, subject to applicable environmental review procedures, unless specifically excluded in the plan. In some areas, however, environmental values, hazards or manageability considerations may require limitations on either the type or intensity of use, or both. Those limitations are identified in the plan's land use allocations and management objectives for specific areas within the public lands. BLM will include stipulations and special conditions as necessary in leases, license and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources.

Lands

Land Ownership Adjustments

The following criteria will be applied to site-specific determinations for lands that are within transfer areas. The criteria to be used include:

- public resource values, including but not limited to:
  - Threatened and Endangered and sensitive species habitat,
  - riparian areas,
  - fisheries,
  - nesting/breeding habitat for game animals,
  - key big game seasonal habitat,
  - developed recreation and recreation access sites,

class A scenery,
municipal watersheds,
energy and mineral potential,
sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places,
wilderness and areas being studied for wilderness, and
other statutorily authorized designations,

-accessibility of the land for public uses;

-amount of public investments in facilities or improvements and the potential for recovering those investments;

-difficulty or cost of administration (manageability);

-suitability of the land for management by another federal agency;

-significance of the decision in stabilizing business, social and economic conditions, and/or lifestyles;

-encumbrances, including but not limited to:
R&PP and small tract leases,
withdrawals, or
other leases or permits

-consistency of the decision with cooperative agreements and plans or policies of other agencies; and

-suitability and need for change in land ownership or use for purposes including but not limited to: community expansion or economic development such as industrial, residential or agricultural (other than grazing) development.

The land ownership adjustment criteria identified above will be considered in land reports and environmental analyses prepared for specific adjustment proposals.

Public land within retention areas generally will remain in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where improved management efficiency would result. Recreation and Public Purpose Applications will be considered on all public lands except those lands of national significance. Land exchange proposals will be considered on all public lands. However, these proposals must be in the public interest which will be determined by site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.

Public land within disposal areas generally will be made available for disposal through sales or exchanges or both. Some land may be retained in public ownership based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria. Agricultural enteries (DLA and Carey Act) will only be considered on lands with identified agricultural potential (T2).

Land to be acquired by the BLM through exchanges generally should be located in the retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should:

-facilitate access to public lands and resources,

-maintain or enhance important public values and uses,

-maintain or enhance local social and economic values,

-improve management efficiency through the elimination of isolated tracts and the blocking up of public lands,and

-facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Medicine Lodge RMP.

Public land to be sold must meet the following criteria derived from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

-the land must be difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and must not be suitable for management by another federal department or agency;

-the land must have been acquired for a specific purpose and must no longer be required for that or any other federal purpose; or

-disposal of the land will serve important public objectives that can only be achieved prudently or feasibly if the land is removed from public ownership, and if these objectives outweigh other public objectives and values that would be served by maintaining such land in federal ownership.

Sale will be the preferred method of disposal when:

-required by national policy;

-the level of interest in a specific tract indicates that competitive bidding is desirable for reasons of fairness; or

-disposal through exchange is not feasible.

The preferred method of selling public land will be by competitive bidding at public auction to qualifying purchasers. However, modified competitive bidding procedures may be used when there is not legal public access to a tract, when necessary to avoid jeopardizing an existing use on adjacent land, or to avoid dislocation of existing public land users.

Public land may be sold by direct sale at fair market value when:

-the land is needed by state or local governments;

-direct sale is needed to protect equities arising from authorized use;

-direct sale is needed to protect equities resulting from inadvertent, unauthorized use that was caused by surveying errors or title defects; or

-there is only one adjacent land owner and no legal public access.

Trespass Abatement

Existing unauthorized uses of public land will be resolved either through termination, temporary authorization by short term permit, Sike's Act agreements, sale, or exchange. Decisions will be based on consideration of the following criteria:

-the type and significance of improvements involved;

-conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and

-whether the unauthorized use is intentional or unintentional.

New cases of unauthorized use generally will be terminated immediately. Temporary permits may be issued to provide short-term authorization, unless the situation warrants immediate cessation of the use and restoration of the land. Highest priority will be given to abatement of the following unauthorized uses:

-new unauthorized activities or uses where prompt action can minimize damage to public resources and associated costs;

-cases where delay may be detrimental to authorized users;

-cases involving special areas, sensitive ecosystems, and resources of national significance; and

-cases involving malicious or criminal activities.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Utility and transportation corridor development may be permitted based on consideration of the following criteria:

-type of and need for facility proposed;

-conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and

-availability of alternatives and/or mitigation measures.

Applicants will be encouraged to locate new facilities within existing corridors to the extent possible.

Energy and Minerals Program

Oil and Gas Leasing

As a general rule, public land is available for oil and gas leasing. In most areas, oil and gas leases will be issued with only standard stipulations attached. In other areas, leases will have special stipulations attached to them at the time of issuance to protect seasonal wildlife habitat and/or other sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect important surface resource values, "no surface occupancy" stipulations will be attached to the lease. This analysis assumes that for horizontal deviations of up to 1,500 feet, directional drilling exploration operations are feasible. However, because directional drilling is far more costly than conventional drilling, such operations would not take place unless there is very strong evidence that a discovery would be made. The general areas where standard, special and "no surface occupancy" stipulations will impact minerals are shown on Map 3b.

Geothermal Leasing

Lease applications will continue to be processed as received. Stipulations will be attached based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal. At the present time, the BLM is not processing lease applications for geothermal resources in the Island Park area. An environmental impact statement completed in 1980 by the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM assessess the impacts of geothermal leasing and development in that area. Based on this assessment, the USFS has recommended that leasing not be allowed unless it can be shown that a valuable geothermal resource exists and that its development would not adversely affect the thermal features of Yellowstone National Park. About 95 percent of the federal geothermal estate affected by this action involves national forest lands. Of the affected mineral estate acres administered by the BLM, about 3,000 are under geothermal lease applications. The future of geothermal leasing within the Island Park area will depend on Congressional legislation.

Locatable Minerals

Mineral exploration and development on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3800 to prevent unnecessary and undue degredation of the land. Validity examinations may be conducted under the following conditions:

- where a mineral patent application has been filed and a field examination is required to verify the validity of the claim(s);

- where there is a conflict with a disposal application, and it is deemed in the public interest to do so, or where the statute authorizing the disposal requires clearance of any encumbrance;

- where the land is needed for a federal program; or

- where a mining claim is located under the guise of the mining law and flagrant unauthorized use of the land or mineral resource is occuring.

Public land will be opened to mineral entry where mineral withdrawals are revoked through the withdrawal review process.

Common Variety Mineral Materials

Applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will be processed using the standards developed in this RMP. Standards vary where different levels of restrictions are imposed on mineral materials disposals to protect important surface values.

Forestry

General

Public lands within Intensive Forest Management Areas will be avaliable for a full range of forest management activities. Areas classified as woodland will also be available for limited forest management activities. Forest activity plans generally will be required prior to initiating forest management activities in all areas. Exceptions will be allowed for small sawlog, post and pole and commercial thinning sales. Exceptions will also be made for emergency salvage sales of less than 250 MBF. These sales will be covered by an environmental assessment and a checklist of contract stipulations that conform with the guidelines developed in the Eastern Idaho Sustained Yield Unit (SYU) Environmental Assessment.

Public land within set aside or withdrawn areas will not be available for the harvest of forest products.

Firewood gathering by individuals for home use will be permitted in designated areas and in some cases undesignated areas by special request. Occasional firewood use may be authorized to accomodate government agencies, nonprofit groups and private individuals, but only when such disposal serves a management goal.

Silvicultural Guidelines and Harvesting Techniques

Merchantable timber or tracts identified as intensive management areas are to be systematically harvested using appropriate methods.

Silvicultural prescriptions will be consistent with accepted methods related to site, species, habitat types, and the individual requirements of the forest stand. Tractor logging will be limited to slopes with gradients of less than 40%, and the season of logging will be limited to avoid soil compaction and rutting.

Salvage operations will have priority when trees are destroyed by fire, disease, insects, or other forest pests. Salvage operations as well as other timber harvest activities will be coordinated with wildlife, archaeological and watershed personnel.

Road locations will be determined on the basis of topography, drainage, soils, and other natural features to minimize erosion. All roads and skid trails to be closed will be seeded to grass, legumes and shrubs. Species will be selected for the forest community and elevation to be seeded.

Slash disposal will be done in a manner conducive to revegetation and advantageous to the passage of big game. Slash will be lopped and scattered where possible with some accumulation in or near openings for escape cover. Slash will be burned when necessary. Such burning will be in conformance with state air pollution regulations.

Logging units will be laid out in a manner that will mitigate the risk of windthrow, and the selection of trees in shelterwoods will be made in a manner that will improve the genetic composition of the regenerated stand. Disturbed areas will be artificially revegetated when natural forest regeneration cannot be reasonably expected in five years.

These are general guidelines. More detailed discussions of measures that can be applied are found in the environmental assessments for the Eastern Idaho SYU EA.

Additional guidelines for Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 are listed below.

Old Growth - Is defined as 140 years old through to 240 years old mixed conifer stands. Minimum acreage managed for would be 10% (5% existing, 5% replacement) of the management area's timber base with a minimum of 100 acres. Acreage will be met out of CFL and harvest will be allowed after the stand goes past 240 years old. Harvest will include the first entry taking 50% of volume as a seed cut and overstory removal in stages thereafter.

Elk Summer Range - Will provide a 40-60% cover-forage ratio minimum. Cover will not be below the 40%.

Elk Calving/Nursery Range - 40% of the stand will be maintained with 45-60% canopy coverage and clear cuts will not be larger than 25 acres.

Snag Management - Existing and future management will provide for the following snags/acre.

2 15-20" DBH
4 10-15" DBH
8 5-10" DBH

More may be needed along riparian areas.

Thinning projects - will maintain a uniform distribution of 350 stems/acre at least 7' tall.

Raptor nests - Especially accipiters, a 5 acre buffer zone will be left around nesting area.

Clear cuts - Maximum size of 40 acres with a minimum of 600 feet leave strips between cuts.

Roads - Will not be constructed along riparian areas. Roads will be closed and rehabilitated at end of sale.

Range

Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments in the resource area have been assigned to one of three management categories based on present resource conditions, the potential for improvement and management objectives. The M allotments generally will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions; I allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and C allotments will receive custodial management while protecting existing resource values.

Allotment-Specific Objectives for the Improvement Category

Multiple use management objectives have been developed for each allotment in the I category. Future mangement actions, including approval of allotment management plans, will be tailored to meet these objectives.

Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Activity plans are commonly used to present, in detail, the types of changes required in an allotment, and to establish a schedule for implementation. Actions set forth under the plan that affect the environment will be closely analyzed. During the analysis, the proposal may be altered or completely revamped to mitigate adverse impacts. The following sections contain discussions of the types of change likely to be recommended in an activity plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

Livestock Use Adjustments

Livestock use adjustments are made by changing one or more of the following: the season of use, the number of head, or the pattern of grazing. Target stocking rates have been set for each allotment. While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the I allotments, use adjustments may be needed for allotments in categories C and M.

In reviewing the target stocking rate figures and other recommended changes, it is emphasized that the target AUM figures are not final stocking rates. Rather, all livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When adjustments are made through mutual agreement, they may be implemented once the Rangeland Program Summary has been through a public review period. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and monitoring of resource conditions. Current BLM policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program to verify the need for livestock adjustments proposed on the basis of one-time inventory data.

Monitoring will also be used to measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and to evaluate the effectiveness of management changes in meeting stated objectives. Detailed guidance for rangeland monitoring is available in current BLM policy and guidance.

The federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments implemented by decision. The regulations specify that permanent increases in livestock forage or suspensions of preference "shall be implemented over a five year period..." The regulations do provide for adjustments to be implemented in less than five years when: (1) an agreement is reached to implement the adjustment in less than five years; or (2) a shorter implementation period is needed to sustain resource productivity.

Temporary Suspensions and Closures

Temporary suspensions of grazing use or closures of all or portions of allotments may be implemented to protect the public lands because of conditions of drought, fire, flood, or insect infestation. When conditions such as fire, flood or insect infestation create a significant impact on the normal operation of a grazing operator, efforts to mitigate the impact may be taken by the BLM. These mitigating efforts may consist of relocation of grazing use, modification of grazing systems and temporary nonrenewable grazing use in other allotments under permit or lease. No action will be taken by the BLM prior to consultation and coordination with affected permittees or lessees and other affected parties.

Range Improvements and Treatments

The extent, location and timing of range improvements will be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability. Since some of the soils in the resource area may be unsuitable for range improvement projects, proposed projects will be investigated for soil feasibility prior to approving location and design plans.

All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Generally, all structural range improvements will be maintained by the benefitting party(s). All nonstructural range improvements will be maintained by the BLM.

Grazing Systems

The type of system to be implemented will be based on consideration of the following factors:

-allotment-specific management objectives;

-resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability;

-operator needs; and

-implementation costs.

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix B, page B-6 of the Medicine Lodge Draft RMP/EIS.

Unleased or Unpermitted Tracts

Unleased or unpermitted tracts generally will remain available for further consideration for authorized grazing, as provided for in the current BLM grazing regulations. However, certain tracts currently closed or restricted to grazing use will remain so.

Wildlife and Fisheries Program

General

Fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat. Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize and/or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition. Such projects will be identified through habitat management plans or multiple resource management activity plans.

Seasonal Restrictions

Seasonal restrictions will continue to be applied where they are needed to mitigate the impacts of human activities on important seasonal wildlife habitat. The major types of seasonal wildlife habitat and the time periods in which restrictions may be needed are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2
Seasonal Wildlife Restrictions

Habitat	Restricted Period
Big Game Winter Range	12/01 - 04/30
Elk Calving Areas	04/30 - 06/30
Raptor Nest Sites	Dates vary by species
Sage Grouse/Sharp-tailed Grouse Strutting Grounds	03/01 - 04/30
Sage Grouse/Sharp-tailed Grouse Nesting and Broodrearing	04/30 - 06/30
Antelope Fawning Grounds	05/01 - 06/30
Antelope Winter Ranges	12/01 - 04/01
Endangered Species	No surface occupancy, size is site-specific.

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Habitat

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the BLM biological assessment process, consultation with the USFWS will be initiated as per section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

To the extent practicable, management actions within occupied grizzly bear habitat will be consistent with the goals and objectives contained in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USDI, FWS 1982) and the guidelines developed through the Interagency Wildlife Monitoring Program for mineral exploration and development.

Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Sufficient forage and cover will be provided for wildlife on seasonal habitat. Forage and cover requirements will be incorporated into allotment management plans and will be specific to areas of primary wildlife use.

Range improvements generally will be designed to achieve both wildlife and range objectives. Existing fences may be modified and new fences will be built so as to allow wildlife passage. Water developments generally will not be established for livestock where significant conflicts over vegetation would result.

Vegetative manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impact on wildlife habitat and to improve it whenever possible. These projects will comply with sage grouse, antelope and mule deer management guidelines. The ID F&G will be consulted one year in advance on all vegetative manipulation projects. Animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect and, if necessary, restore, their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and BLM Manual 6740). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation. Bridges and culverts will be designed and installed to maintain adequate fish passage.

Riparian habitat needs will be taken into consideration in developing livestock grazing systems and pasture designs. Some of the techniques that can be used to maintain riparian areas:

- changing class of stock from cow/calf pairs to herded sheep or yearlings;

- either eliminating summer grazing or scheduling summer grazing for only one year out of every three;

- locating salt away from riparian zones;

- laying out pasture fences so that each pasture has as much riparian habitat as possible;

- locating fences so that they do not confine or concentrate livestock near the riparian zone;

- developing alternative sources of water to lessen the grazing pressure on the riparian habitat; and

- excluding livestock completely from riparian habitat by protective fencing if other measures do not work.

Where applicable, the elk management guidelines contained in the Elk Habitat Relations for Central Idaho and Eastern Idaho will be followed. These include:

- managing public vehicle access to maintain the habitat effectiveness of security cover and key seasonal habitat (such as winter range and calving/nursery areas) for deer and elk;

- maintaining adequate untreated peripheral zones around important moist sites (i.e. wet sedge meadows, springs, riparian zones);

- maintaining adequate thermal and security cover on deer and elk habitat, particularly within timber stands adjacent to primary winter foraging areas;

-ensuring that slash depth inside clear cuts does not exceed one and one-half feet; and

-generally discouraging thinning immediately adjacent to clear cuts.

Wildlife reintroductions and fish stocking proposals will be evaluated and recommendations will be made to the Department of Fish and Game. BLM policy requires that a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) be prepared prior to any wildlife reintroduction.

Soil, Water and Air

General

Soil, water and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such an evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed projects and the sensitivity of soil as defined in the National Cooperative Soil Survey Standards. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with soil, water, and air resource management.

Soils

Soils will be managed to maintain productivity and to minimize long-term erosion to not exceed more than 5 tons/acre, except for some areas of local sand dunes.

Water

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards, including consultation with state agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Management actions on public land within municipal watersheds will be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

Management activities in riparian zones will be designed to maintain, or, where possible, improve riparian conditions.

Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable.

Recreation

General

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Developed recreation facilities receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected. Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with recreation management objectives.

Motorized Vehicle Use

Travel planning, including the designation of areas open, restricted and closed to motorized vehicle access, will remain a high priority for public land. Public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally will remain available for such use without restrictions. Exceptions to this general rule may be authorized after consideration of the following criteria:

- the need to promote user enjoyment and minimize use conflicts;
- the need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resource values;
- the need to minimize harrassment of wildlife or significant degredation of wildlife habitats; and
- the need to promote user safety.

Public land within areas identified as restricted to motorized vehicle use generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails or portions of such areas may be closed seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas identified as closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use except emergency or authorized vehicles. Exceptions may be allowed in Wilderness Study Areas based on application of the Interim Management Policy.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails or areas only where problems have been identified. Areas not designated as restricted or closed will remain open for motorized vehicle use.

Visual Resources

Visual Resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to maintain existing visual resource management classes.

Wilderness Resources

Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed in compliance with the Interim Management Policy until they are reviewed and acted upon by Congress. Other areas being studied for wilderness will be managed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the land, and when it does not conflict with valid existing rights they will be managed to meet the nonimpairment standard as well.

Public land within areas added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in compliance with the Wilderness Management Policy. Site-specific wilderness management plans will be developed for such areas.

Areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this Resource Management Plan.

Cultural Resources

BLM is required to identify, evaluate and protect cultural resources on public lands, and to ensure that BLM-initiated actions and projects do not inadvertently damage or destroy non-federal cultural resources. The Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593 (1971), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 mandate BLM's cultural resource protection policy.

This policy requires BLM to conduct or cause to be conducted an intensive (Class III) inventory before any Bureau initiated or authorized surface disturbing activities and land sales or transfers from federal management are allowed. Inventories are conducted according to BLM Manual Section 8111.4 specifications. They supplement other inventories which may have previously located, identified and evaluated an affected area's cultural resources.

When cultural resource values are discovered in a proposed project or authorized action area they will be protected by the following methods:

1. Avoidance. Cultural resources are protected by redesigning or relocating projects, or excluding significant cultural resource areas from authorized use agreements, and land sales or transfers.

2. Salvage. If a project cannot be redesigned or relocated, cultural resource values will be salvaged through controlled, scientific methods (i.e. complete surface collection and/or excavation).

3. Project/Action Abandonment. If a site has significant cultural resource values which cannot adequately be protected by avoidance or salvage, then project or action would be abandoned.

4. Consultation. If properties which may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are discovered, BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Site documentation will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain an eligibility determination, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

In a stewardship role, BLM manages documented cultural resource sites and values for public benefit.

The Department of the Interior has issued instructions setting forth this management structure through a use evaluation system. The purposes of the system are to analyze the scientific and sociocultural values of cultural resources, to provide a basis for allocation of cultural resources, to make cultural resources an important part of the planning system, and to identify information needed when existing documentation is inadequate to support a reasonable cultural resource-based land use allocation.

The evaluation of cultural resources requires the consideration of actual or potential use of individual sites or properties within the following categories:

1. Sociocultural Use. This category refers to the use of an object (including flora and fauna), structure or place based on a social or cultural group's perception that the item has utility in maintaining the group's heritage or existence.

2. Current Scientific Use. This category refers to a study or project in progress at the time of evaluation for which scientists or historians are using a cultural resource as a source of information that will contribute to the understanding of human behavior.

3. Management Use. This category refers to the use of a cultural resource by the BLM, or other entities interested in the management of cultural resources, to obtain specific information that is needed for the reasonable allocation of cultural resources or for the development of effective preservation measures.

4. Conservation for Future Use. This category refers to the management of cultural resources by segregating them from other forms of appropriation until specific conditions are met in the future. Such conditions may include the development of research techniques that are presently not available or the exhaustion of all other resources similar to those represented in the protected sample. The category is intended to provide long-term, onsite preservation and protection of select cultural resources.

5. Potential Scientific Use. This category refers to the potential use (utilizing research techniques currently available) of a cultural resource as a source of information that will contribute to the understanding of human behavior.

Cadastral Survey

Cadastral Surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Fire

Until the Normal Year Fire Plan is updated, the primary fire protection objective will continue to be the control, during the first burning period, of all wildfires on or threatening public land.

Limited suppression areas will be established following the selection of the Resource Management Plan.

Prescribed burning will continue to be used in support of resource management objectives.

Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identifed for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on consideration of the following criteria:

- resource management needs;
- user safety;
- impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery; and
- construction and maintenance costs.

Detailed Management Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the resource area. More detailed management plans called activity plans will, however, be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate specific management practices, improvements, allocations, and other information for a particular site or area. They will be prepared for most major BLM programs such as range (allotment management plans), recreation (recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), and

cultural resources (cultural resources activity plans). Where two or more activities have activity plan needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation and public involvement are integral parts in the formulation of activity plans.

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 the specific management action involved.

Environmental Review

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.