

## **OWYHEE COUNTY PERSPECTIVES ON THE PUBLIC ISSUE STATEMENTS**

### **VEGETATION**

#### **BRUNEAU**

Determine the level of grazing, recreation and other allowable uses that will provide for or not interfere with native plant communities, watershed health, soil stability, wildlife habitats and special status species, providing for all appropriate management to prevent any conflict between the uses and resource values. In making the determination called for by this issue, BLM shall take into account the economic effect of its vegetation management decisions. Fire management, including fuels treatments, need to protect wild land, urban and rural interfaces and the existing native habitats. Fire use and other management tools need to be considered for enhancement and restoration of native plant communities. Rehabilitation considers use of native and adapted non-native plans as appropriate.

**(Rationale: The basic premise upon which the County so states the issue is the statutory requirement of avoiding, where possible, conflict between the County Land Use Plan and a Federal Plan. The County Land Use Plan provides that the federal lands should be actively managed for the full range of uses mandated by the Congress. In order to be consistent with the County Plan as well as the with the Mandates of Congress there should be no potential left for BLM to reduce any of the allowable uses without first applying all possible management strategies to avoid conflict, to allow continued full use of allowable uses, and to provide for the resource values. The economic effect portion of the issue is included to illustrate and focus the BLM staff and the public to the need to weigh potential economic effect of management actions.)**

#### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

Loss of native shrub/perennial bunchgrass habitat has resulted in a decline of the raptor prey base, influencing some raptor populations.

Livestock grazing, military training, and other human uses have an effect on soil stability and watershed health.

Existing land use plans do not adequately address the protection, enhancement and restoration of native plant communities (sagebrush, salt desert shrub) that provide un-fragmented core habitat for dependent plant and animal species.

Livestock grazing, recreation, and other uses may be impacting water quality and riparian habitat conditions.

Fire management, including fuels treatments, need to protect the existing native habitats, wild land, and urban and rural interfaces. Fire use and other management tools need to be considered for enhancement and restoration of native plant communities. Rehabilitation considers use of native and adapted non-native plans as appropriate.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

#### **BRUNEAU**

Current land use and recreation trends may affect traditional uses\* and values.

- How does BLM manage the allowable uses of public lands for sustainable use and resource health in order to maintain the custom, culture and economic health of local communities? How can emerging activities and traditional uses be managed in order to maintain the sustainable use

and resource health that supports local economies? Recreational use of public lands increases counties' infrastructure costs. What actions can BLM take to minimize adverse effects on local communities and governmental entities?

*(Rationale: The County includes the phrase "The allowable uses of" in order to focus BLM staff, the County, and the public to the fact that BLM manages Federal lands in accordance with the management instructions of the Congress included in the statutes relating to management of the lands. The focus must be on keeping the BLM staff, the County and the public online with understanding the full range of the uses established by Congress as "allowable" and all must realize that these mandates by the Congress provide the parameters within which BLM must operate.)*

### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

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- How does BLM manage the allowable uses of public lands for sustainable use and resource health in order to maintain the custom, culture and economic health of local communities?

-How can emerging activities and traditional uses be managed in order to maintain the sustainable use and resource health that supports local economies?

Recreational use of public lands increases counties' infrastructure costs.

What actions can BLM take to minimize adverse effects on local communities and governmental entities?

*(Rationale: The same inclusion of "allowable uses of" is placed in this issue as in the prior.)*

\* The group requested that BLM define traditional uses: grazing, minerals, farming, etc., as identified by past +/- 60 years use.

### **TRIBAL AND CULTURAL VALUES**

#### **BRUNEAU**

Historical, tribal and cultural values may be affected by a variety of land use activities

The Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock tribes consider the area part of their aboriginal homelands and want to continue to have access to the land for ceremonial and religious purposes, as well as hunting, fishing and gathering.

At times, current management conflicts with both tangible and intangible Native American interests; therefore, the RMP needs to address the protection of cultural resources and traditional cultural properties, including plants, wildlife, sacred places, water\*, etc.

Tribal governments are sovereign nations which have special status through treaties, statutes, and executive orders that must be honored and protected.

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*\* There was some discussion about how to interpret the reference to water—whether the reference was to water rights, water quality, or some other distinction about which the BLM may or may not be able to influence. The group agreed that BLM would seek this clarification and potential (or not) revision at a subsequent Wings and Roots meeting among the Tribe and the BLM.*

## **RECREATION**

### **BRUNEAU**

Demand for recreational opportunities in SW Idaho is increasing.

There is a need to provide for recreation use, through development of and implementation of effective planning and management strategies, while addressing the associated impacts to other resources and conflicts with other uses. BLM needs to provide reasonable recreational access consistent with private property rights and arrange recreational opportunities. However reasonable recreational access does not include condemnation of private property in order to provide access. BLM needs to provide reasonable recreational access consistent with private property rights and a range of recreational opportunities.

**(Rationale: the edit regarding no condemnation is added to make the issue statement consistent with the public discussion which took place at the September 10, 2002 meeting. The public discussion included comments that reasonable access does not include condemnation and the public group also approved language which provided that reasonable access did not necessarily mean convenient access. The edition of the clause “through development of and implementation of effective planning and management strategies” is added to focus BLM staff, the County and the public on the fact that it is only through development and implementation of adequate and effective planning and management strategies that resource goals will be met in such a way as to allow the continued full “allowable” use of recreation which is mandated and not only in the basic statutes relating to the management of public lands but also in specific statutes and executive orders relating to providing adequate recreation opportunities on the public land. The effective management strategies that were part of the previous management plan should also have been identified by BLM staff during the preparation of a Management Situation Analysis. This MSA is normally and regularly done at the beginning of the planning process to determine which of the previous plans and actions were effective and which were not. (Source of statement: instruction provided by BLM’s national training center staff in a class entitled “Successful Land Use Planning: Process, Skills, and Techniques”. Reference to the MSA which was completed regarding the prior Bruneau plan would be useful, and would focus public awareness on what previous used strategies have been determined to be effective and will be carried forward to the new plan.)**

### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

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There is a need to provide for recreation use, through development of and implementation of effective planning and management strategies, while addressing the associated impacts to other resources and conflicts with other uses. BLM needs to provide reasonable recreational access consistent with private property rights and arrange recreational opportunities. However reasonable recreational access does not include condemnation of private property in order to provide access. Recreation use must be managed in such a way as to be compatible with the protection and enhancement of raptors population and their habitats. The discussion at the September 10 meeting clearly indicated that “reasonable access” did not include condemnation.

**(Rationale: This edit was made to make the issue statement consistent with the discussion**

that took place September 10, 2002 meeting. During the discussion on this issue it was clearly stated that “reasonable access” did not include condemnation. The group also approved language that indicated that “reasonable access” did not necessarily mean “convenient” access. It appears that in transcribing the notes from that meeting the two elements of the definition of “reasonable access” were inappropriately combined into a sentence which contains the phrase “...does not necessarily mean...” By combining condemnation with the phrase “...does not necessarily mean...” as was done in the unedited issue statement, the meaning becomes changed. As written it indicates that condemnation could occur but would not necessarily occur. That is a long way from the clear message stated at the meeting that “convenient access does not include condemnation.”)

## **GRAZING**

### **BRUNEAU**

Livestock grazing is an important component of multiple use management and sustained economic benefit to local communities.

Livestock grazing practices are complementary to and/or compatible with a sustainable environment for vegetation, wildlife and fish.

**(Rationale: This edit, along with the one below for the NCA was provided to point out to staff and to the public that livestock grazing can be much more than a use that is simply compatible with other uses. While the term “compatible” simply indicates that the activity does not interfere with the other potential uses, “complementary”, on the other hand, means that the activity provides an additive value and can be used to simultaneously achieve other goals of the land manager. In other words, it can actually be a management tool that assists in the achievement of other goals of the land management agency. For example, grazing might be employed to manipulate vegetation types within a management area by controlling the growth or spread of a particular species in order to provide growth opportunity for a more desired species.)**

### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

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**(Rationale: same as above)**

## **WILDLIFE**

### **BRUNEAU**

Human uses affect wildlife populations. How can aquatic, riparian and upland habitat be managed to support healthy, sustainable wildlife populations?

### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

Is management of the NCA consistent with the protection and enhancement of raptor populations and their habitat?

## LAND & REALTY

### **BRUNEAU**

The planning area consists of scattered tracts of intermingled ownerships including federal, private, and state lands which present challenges for management and for effective use of public, private and state resources. Purchases, sales and exchanges should consider economic, environmental, cultural, economic and social resource values. An increasing demand for road, utility and communication services impacts public lands and users

Where can utility corridors be located to prevent or lessen resource degradation caused by proliferation of rights-of-way?

**(Rationale: This edit was made to point out to the staff and to the public that, because of the intermingled nature of the federal, state, and private lands, decisions made by federal land managers do not stop at the boundary of the federal lands. While it is clear that federal land managers are empowered to make decisions only on the federal lands they manage for the Congress, it is also clear that their decisions produce real effects on the adjoining and intermingled lands. BLM staff must remain cognizant of the affect their decisions have on the intermingled lands and they must take those potential affects into consideration during the development and consideration of plan alternatives. As BLM staff solve the “challenges” to their management activities that are presented by the intermingling of the federal, state, and private lands they should ensure that their selected management actions do not present avoidable or unsolvable “challenges” for the managers and owners of the intermingled state and private lands.)**

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An increasing demand for road, utility and communication services impacts public lands and users.

Where can utility corridors be located to prevent or lesson resource degradation caused by proliferation of rights-of-way?

**(Rationale: same edit as in the prior)**

## SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

### **BRUNEAU**

Special designations, i.e., ACEC, WSA, RNA, proposed for the protection of natural and cultural resources may impact current uses and conditions.

Special designations need to be monitored to see if the objectives are being met and to quantify the impacts upon other multiple uses of the area. They should also only be imposed when the resource areas or values under consideration meet statutory criteria and clearly require additional protective management that could not be implemented without special designation.

**(Rationale: During the planning process, the BLM staff attempts to project effects of the management actions proposed within the plan. These projections, however, vary in their accuracy and may not cover all the actual resulting effects. It is necessary to plan for the continuing monitoring and any subsequently required adjustments of management activity that will be necessary to ensure that the effects of the plan and its management activities are**

**contained within the limits that were determined to be acceptable and that were used in the analysis of alternatives. This edit was added to ensure that the following question remained foremost in the minds of the BLM staff as they progressed through the planning cycle. Did the data used in the planning process clearly show that, in addition to meeting statutory criteria, the current management designation was not successfully addressing the resource issues and appropriate management could not be implemented without special designation?)**

#### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

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Special designations need to be monitored to see if the objectives are being met and to quantify the impacts to other uses of the area. They should only be opposed when the resource area or values under consideration meets statutory criteria and clearly require additional protective management that could not be implemented without special designation.

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#### **NATIONAL GUARD**

#### **BRUNEAU**

*None.*

#### **SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA**

Military activities need to be conducted in a way that is consistent with the protection and enhancement of raptor populations and their habit.

BLM may receive future requests to authorize new types or increased levels of use.

Areas potentially affected by hazardous materials or unexploded ordnance should be evaluated for possible withdrawal to the Department of Defense. A withdrawal would not change the use of the area, but would transfer the liability for clean up and remediation to the agency responsible for the problem.