use in sub-area L10a (395 acres) is limited to designated trails consistent with Bureau of Reclamation limitations on adjacent lands.

Livestock grazing and minerals activities will not be restricted by recreation oriented management in the area.

A recreation activity management plan and a cultural resources management plan specifying the degree of protection and interpretation measures appropriate for the area will be prepared. These plans will include fire suppression guidelines designed to protect fragile soils and cultural resources by limiting surface disturbance.

L11-Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas - 10,551 acres

These tracts will be managed for protection, maintenance, and enhancement of wildlife habitat, primarily for upland game birds.

The existing CWMA Habitat Management Plan (HMP) will be revised to reflect changes in the number of tracts. Sub-area L9e, will also be covered by the revised HMP. The modified HMP will include fire suppression guidelines for protection of wildlife habitat on CWMAs.

Livestock will be excluded from 821 acres of CWMAs by fencing.

The areas will be given priority for fire suppression in the fire management plan and will be under full fire suppression. The areas will remain open to ORV use.

L12-Areas of Geologic Interest - 6,996 acres.

These areas will be managed to preserve fragile geologic formations associated with caves. They contain the most natural caves outside of WSAs recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Proposed projects will be examined to ensure the formations are not adversely affected.

No surface occupancy associated with mineral lease development will be allowed within 250 feet of fragile geologic formations or caves. To avoid possible adverse effects from increased public exposure, such as vandalism and removal of speleothems, access to caves will not be improved. The areas will remain open to ORV use.

A cave management plan will be prepared for these areas. This will include fire suppression guidelines to limit surface disturbance near the geologic formations.

T1-Transfer - 20,538 acres

These areas are available for transfer from Federal ownership by sale, exchange, agricultural entry, or other means determined appropriate as discussed on pages 39 and 40. Detailed examinations will be conducted prior to the final decision about transfer or type of transfer. The examinations will consider threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and other resource values. Agricultural entry applications and other transfer proposals for these areas will be considered in the order received.

T2-Transfer-Agricultural Entry - 29,873 acres

These areas are available for transfer from Federal ownership under the agricultural land laws or for local and State government needs or exchange. Other types of transfers may occur only if agricultural entry transfers leave Federal parcels that are difficult to manage because of odd configuration, access problems, or lack of adequate facilities (fences, cattleguards, water, etc.). These resulting difficult-to-manage tracts could be transferred from Federal ownership by sale, exchange, or other means determined appropriate as discussed under T1. T2 areas found to be unsuitable for transfer under agricultural land laws and not falling into the T1 category as described in the preceeding sentence will remain in public ownership and be managed as described for M1 areas.

Studies to determine suitability under the agricultural land laws include economic feasibility, physical suitability for agriculture, water availability, threatened and endangered species clearance, and cultural resources clearance.

In some cases, small parcels adjacent to agricultural applications were included in T2 if transfer of the application would make the small adjacent parcels difficult to manage as described above.

Up to 25 percent of the T2 areas could be retained in public ownership and managed as L11 areas under the Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas HMP. The criteria for selecting these areas are listed under "Standard Operating Procedures" in this RMP. The areas will be selected on a case-by-case basis as T2 lands are considered for transfer.

T3-Jerome County Canyon Rim Transfer - 258 acres

This area is available for transfer from Federal ownership as described for T1, but only if zoning regulations allow commercial or residential development.

T4-Bureau of Reclamation Transfer - 3,751 acres

These lands will be withdrawn for the Minidoka North Side Pumping Division Extension Project and developed for irrigated farmland by the Bureau of Reclamation. Developed lands will be transferred from Federal ownership by the Bureau of Reclamation. Approximately half of the area will be retained by the Bureau of Reclamation for wildlife and recreation management. Existing agricultural entry applications will be processed prior to withdrawal.

Other Resource Decisions

Fire Management

A total of 182,598 acres in the planning area will be under full fire suppression. This includes the Vineyard Creek ACEC (L6), Box Canyon ACEC (L7), Substation Tract ACEC (L4), and the Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas (L11 & L9e). The Pronghorn Winter Range HMP area (discussed below under Wildlife Habitat) will also be under full suppression. The areas designated for full fire suppression will be given priority for fire suppression in the fire management plan.

To efficiently utilize fire suppression funds, the remainder of the planning area will be covered by a limited suppression plan. However, since the planning area is subject to large, repeated fires that degrade wildlife habitat and aggravate soil erosion, limited suppression will only take place when the burning index is below 22. This will typically require full suppression during July and August.

The General Fire Suppression Guidelines, presented later in this RMP under "Standard Operating Procedures," will apply to most of the planning area. Exceptions to these will occur in the following portions of the planning area totalling at least 278,336 acres. 1/ Surface disturbing equipment will be more likely to be used in Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas (L11), Pronghorn Winter Range HMP areas, and brush protection areas to protect the vegetation, primarily brush, important to wildlife habitat management objectives. Surface disturbing equipment will also be more likely to be used in the Substation Tract ACEC to protect natural vegetation communities. On the other hand, use of surface disturbing equipment will be very limited in wilderness study areas to protect wilderness character, in Cedar Fields SRMA (L10) to protect fragile soils and cultural resources, in the Oregon Trail area and Devil's Corral (L9a) to protect cultural resources, and in the Areas of

1/ The acreage involved in the brush protection areas and the Oregon Trail area is unknown at this time and will be determined in detailed examinations.

Geologic Interest (L12) to protect fragile geologic formations. Guidelines for fire suppression in the above areas will be included in the fire management plan.

One hundred miles of roads will be maintained annually to improve access for fire suppression. The maintenance will improve access for fire suppression forces and provide secure fuel breaks that could be used for firelines. This will help suppression crews keep fires smaller which will benefit wildlife habitat and prevent soil erosion.

Prescribed fire could be used to accomplish the 19,000 acres of brush control proposed under Livestock Forage. The guidelines for prescribed fire presented later in this RMP under "Standard Operating Procedures" will apply. The use of prescribed fire in areas other than those proposed for brush control will be allowed only if found to be environmentally acceptable. Such use could include projects such as noxious weed abatement or habitat management not foreseen at this time.

Prescribed fire will not be used in Substation Tract ACEC (L4), Vineyard Creek ACEC (L6), or Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC (L7).

Although other management practices to reduce wildfire size and occurrence are not proposed, they could be considered in the future as availability, effectiveness, and environmental acceptability are demonstrated. Such practices might include seeding of fire resistant plant species in strips.

Wildlife Habitat

Several wildlife habitat objectives have been covered under the discussion of multiple use areas. Habitat objectives for the hybrid trout are covered under L6-Vineyard Creek ACEC; for the Shoshone sculpin, they are covered under L7-Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC; for the Bliss Rapids snail, they are covered under both L6 and L7; for ring-necked pheasant and gray partridge (upland game birds), they are covered under L11-Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas. Actions that will benefit wildlife are specified under Fire Management. Following is a discussion of other wildlife habitat objectives for the Monument RMP.

Brush areas valuable to wildlife will be given priority for fire suppression in the fire management plan. Specific areas of importance will be identified in detailed examinations and development of HMPs discussed below. Protection of brush pockets will be important in maintaining or enhancing habitat for sage grouse, pronghorn, mule deer, and non-game wildlife. It should be noted that areas of brush valuable to wildlife will likely change over time as some brush stands are burned by wildfire while others recover.

A Sage Grouse Habitat Management Plan will be prepared to guide management in the sage grouse winter habitat area covering about 67,000 acres in Laidlaw Park, Little Park, and Paddleford Flat west of Carey. Objectives of this HMP

will be to maintain and enhance sage grouse habitat by maintaining adequate, suitable areas of brush and providing additional forbs for brood rearing. Suitable forbs will be included in range seedings in this area.

A Pronghorn Winter Range Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for approximately 171,000 acres south of Gooding and Shoshone and north of Kimama and Minidoka. Objectives of this HMP will be to improve winter habitat for pronghorn by protecting valuable brush stands and increasing the brush component of the areas. Detailed examination will be required to determine the specific areas most important to the wintering animals. The possibility of seeding brush or fire resistant plant species will be examined for feasibility.

A Pronghorn Summer Range Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for 60,000 acres in the Wildhorse Allotment. Objectives of this HMP will be to improve summer habitat for pronghorn by maintaining adequate areas of brush, providing additional forbs, and providing new water sources. Suitable forbs will be included in range seedings in this area. Guidelines for providing additional water sources will be developed.

Guidelines for fire suppression to protect brush will be developed for the areas discussed in the preceding four paragraphs. These will be incorporated into the fire management plan.

Artificial nest structures will be constructed for the ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, and burrowing owl to increase populations. Specific numbers and locations of these structures will be determined in detailed examination of habitat suitable for each species. Ferruginous hawk nest structures will be placed in remote areas. Swainson's hawk nest structures will be placed on Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas (L11). Burrowing owl nest boxes will be placed primarily on CWMAs, but also throughout the breeding range.

Livestock Forage

Provide 142,879 AUMs of livestock forage. Approximately 858,043 acres of public land will be included in grazing allotments. The average stocking rate will be 6.0 acres per AUM.

The objectives will be to maintain existing perennial forage plants, maintain soil stability, stabilize areas currently in downward trend, and increase availability of perennial forage plants.

The following range improvements will be accomplished in support of achieving the objectives stated above.

25,500 acres of reseeding
19,000 acres of brush control
54 miles of fencing
74 miles of pipeline
110 water troughs

9 wells
24 cattleguards
4 miles of road construction

Total cost of improvements = $1,602,800
20-year maintenance and replacement cost = $669,200

The initial stocking level will be 149,135 AUMs (present active preference). Adjustments toward the proposed preference, 142,879 AUMs, will occur based on monitoring data as discussed later in this RMP under "Implementation." Increases dependent on range improvements will occur only as funding for the necessary improvements is available and the projects are completed. Range improvement guidelines are included in "Standard Operating Procedures." Decreases in livestock stocking resulting from land transfers will occur only as the identified tracts are transferred from Federal ownership.

No changes in season of livestock use are proposed. This is because no resource conflicts were identified that would be resolved by such changes. However, changes in season of livestock use could be made in the future after considering environmental effects in the NEPA process if supported by monitoring.

New AMPs or CRMPs will be developed for nine allotments. This will bring the total area covered to 97 percent of the allotted acres.

It is estimated that 21,910 sheep AUMs will be converted to cattle AUMs. Actual conversion will be consistent with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy. The assumed conversion is based on the following assumptions.

1. 50 percent conversion of spring sheep preference to cattle preference will be allowed in allotments without conversion guidelines in existing AMPs.

2. Fall sheep preference will not be converted to cattle preference unless an existing AMP specifies otherwise.

3. Conversion guidelines in existing AMPs will be followed.

4. The maximum conversion allowed by the factors listed above will occur.

Cultural Resources

In addition to the Cultural Resource Management Plans discussed for Devil's Corral (L9a) and the Cedar Fields SRMA (L10), two other plans will be prepared; one for the Oregon Trail and one for Wilson Butte Cave. These plans will specify the degree of protection and the interpretation measures appropriate for the areas. In the case of the Oregon Trail, fire suppression guidelines to limit surface disturbance will be developed and incorporated into the fire management plan.