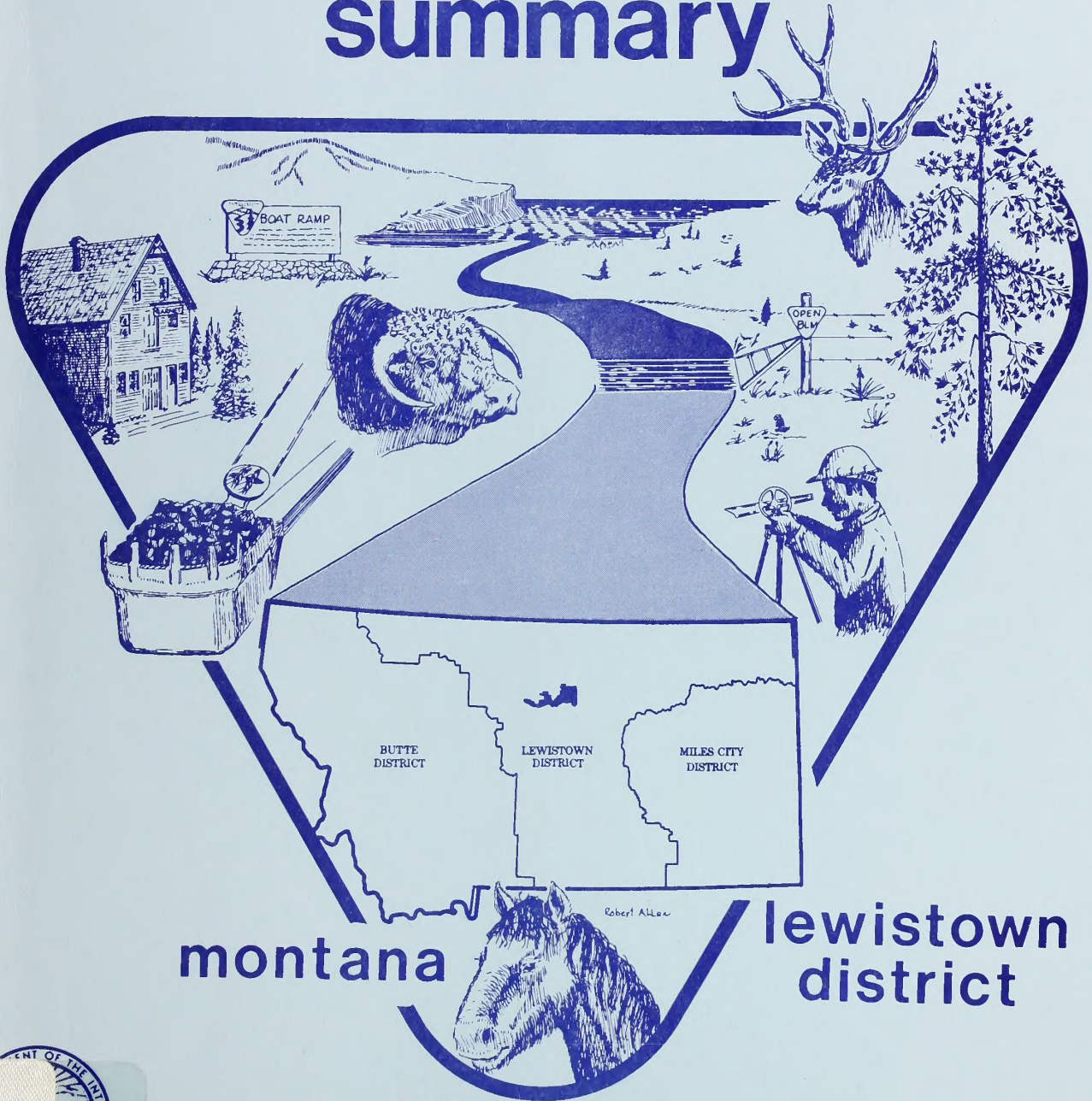
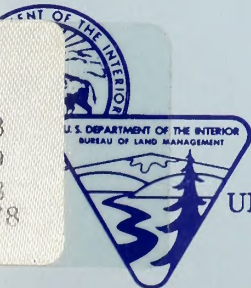




south bearpaw MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN summary



HD
243
.M9
H38
1978



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



#5253593

88001902

HD
243
.M9
H38
1978

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING AREA

April 1978



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
Lewistown District
Havre Resource Area

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LIBRARY

Denver, Colorado



88001902

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Major Issues and Problems	6
Resources - Background, Decisions, and Environmental Overview	
a. Lands	7
b. Minerals	10
c. Forest Products	15
d. Range Management	18
e. Watershed	24
f. Wildlife	28
g. Recreation	34
Interrelationship With Other Plans	42
Actions After the MFP	44
Montana BLM Organization	45
List of BLM Office Addresses and Phone Numbers	48
Glossary	50

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

LISTING OF MAPS

	<u>Page</u>
General Location Map	4
Forested Areas Map	17
Livestock Grazing Allotments	20
Potential Sagebrush Treatment, Wild Horse Management, and Rodent Control Area	23
Watershed Management Area	26
Wildlife Habitat Areas	31
Recreational Areas	36
Missouri River Breaks and Environmental Statement Area	43
BLM District Boundary and Office Location	47

ILLUSTRATIONS AND TABLES

BLM Planning System	3
Ownership and Acreage Statistics	5
Land Ownership Table	7
Acreage Statistics (Montana BLM Organization)	45
Organization Chart	46

LISTING OF MAPS

Page	
1	General Location Map
2	Topographic Map
3	Geological Map
4	Hydrological Map
5	Soil Map
6	Land Use Map
7	Population Map
8	Transportation Map
9	Administrative Map
10	Historical Map
11	Future Development Map

EXPLANATION AND NOTES

1	Scale
2	Projection
3	Units
4	Legend
5	Notes
6	References
7	Author
8	Date

Preface

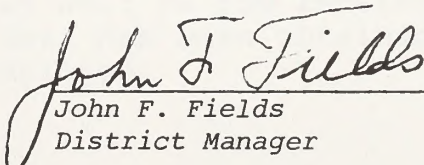
The Bureau of Land Management's Montana State organization manages resources on almost 8.4 million acres of surface land and 50 million acres of subsurface minerals in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Lewistown BLM District Office is responsible for more than 4.1 million surface and 55 million subsurface acres. These public lands are used by many people for a variety of activities. It is BLM's responsibility to develop coordinated land use allocations specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for the utilization or protection of the public's resources.

To better prepare for present and future demands on public lands, BLM has developed land use plans for many areas of the state. This pamphlet contains a summary of the land use decisions for the public lands in the South Bearpaw Planning Unit, covering approximately 243,000 surface and 277,000 subsurface acres in Blaine and Chouteau Counties.

These decisions were made after gathering all available resource data and obtaining the viewpoints of local citizens and the user public. This information, as well as the technical expertise of BLM resource specialists, was combined, analyzed, and considered in formulating the land use decisions outlined on the following pages. By design, these decisions are flexible so they can deal with new demands or new conditions that may arise. They will be updated or revised as necessary to help keep this Management Framework Plan current and effective. Any major changes in this plan will be subject to public review and comment.

In the interest of clarity and brevity, this report is a summary document of the total planning process. The planning effort was made from 1967-1977 for the South Bearpaw Planning Unit. Specific information materials not included in this report are detailed maps, detailed physical and resource inventory data, and social and economic data. These materials, as well as the other components of BLM's land use planning process, as available for public review during regular business hours at the Havre Resource Area Office. If you wish to review these documents, please make an appointment so we can have someone available to discuss them with you.

My staff and I thank everyone who assisted in this effort, especially those who attended our public meetings and contributed to the final product. We look forward to working with you again in formulating similar plans or updating older plans as the need arises.


John F. Fields
District Manager

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Second block of faint, illegible text, appearing as a separate paragraph.

Third block of faint, illegible text, continuing the document's content.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text, showing further details or a list.

Fifth block of faint, illegible text, possibly a concluding paragraph or signature area.

A large, faint signature or stamp located at the bottom center of the page.

Introduction

A. BLM Planning System

Under the Bureau's planning system, available information is gathered, studies are made, and management decisions are developed in seven categories. These categories are lands, minerals, timber, range, watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. In order to meet the needs of its diverse public users, BLM must effectively balance the management of these resources. Under the concept of multiple use management, all potential uses of the public's resources are equally considered and evaluated before a management framework plan (MFP) is developed and implemented.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed its land use planning system with three major components:

Program Direction
Resource Information
Management Decisions

1. Program Direction. General program direction, policies, goals, and priorities are set by the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior. These directions are expressed in laws, executive orders, regulations, and other directives.
2. Resource Information. In initiating this phase of the planning system, BLM specialists gather all of the necessary land and resource information relative to the region under study. Each resource specialist--the forester, range conservationist, minerals specialist, watershed specialist, etc.--analyzes the situation within the planning unit area to determine current condition, use, trends, and problems concerning his resource responsibility. This analysis is then further developed to identify maximum potential for the resource use without consideration of competing or conflicting uses. The importance of this step is that each resource potential is considered individually. In addition, socio-economic data is gathered and analyzed and an ecological profile is prepared to facilitate the evaluation of land use alternatives generated by the planning system. In compiling the above information, the Bureau contacts traditional, as well as new interests, to be certain all available data has been obtained before the planning process is completed.

3. Management Decisions. The next phase of the planning system is designed to resolve resource use conflicts and to provide basic guidelines for the use and management of the public lands being analyzed. This is the heart of the planning system. At this stage, each resource specialist prepares objectives and outlines specific proposals for the optimum use of his resource based on current technology, program directions, and the socio-economic needs of the region. Each individual resource proposal is then fully documented and individually presented utilizing a map and overlay system. At this point, conflicts between various resource proposals and possible multiple use solutions are identified through careful analysis and utilization of narratives, maps, and overlays. Based on comments and information received through public participation, BLM managers are often able to develop additional land use alternatives and multiple use solutions. The impacts of each of these alternatives are identified and analyzed to facilitate the selection of the best mix of uses. A comprehensive land use plan is then developed and adopted. Coordinated land use allocations, guidelines, constraints, and criteria for utilization are intrinsic to this plan.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Management guidelines set forth in this document apply to public lands. In the South Bearpaw Planning Unit, BLM administers approximately 243,000 acres of surface land and 277,000 acres of mineral estate.

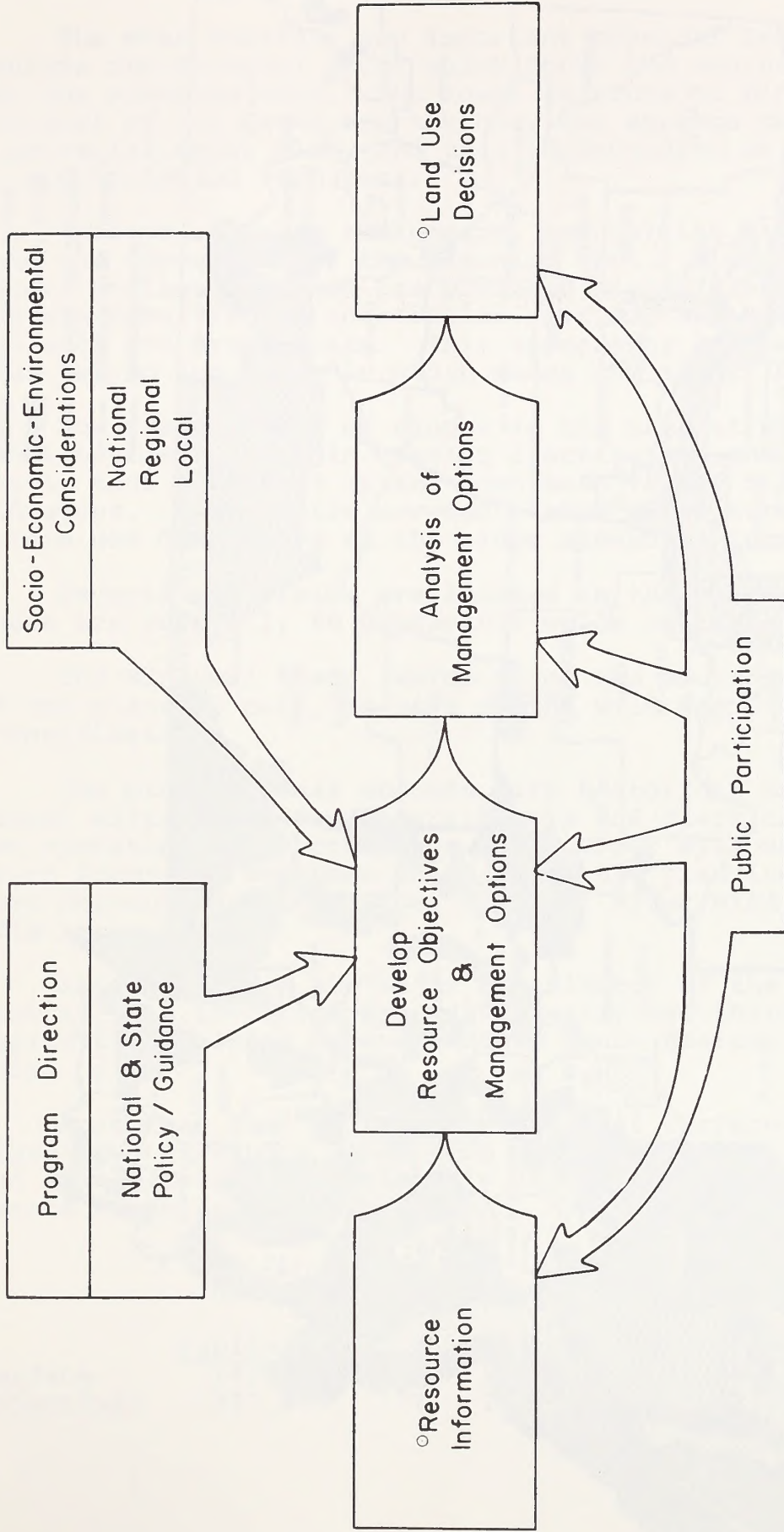
2. All of the guidelines developed in this analysis are subject to revision as the management climate changes. As data improves, technology changes, legislation is developed, or social demands change, these guidelines will be revised to reflect those changes. Major revisions in program direction will be subject to public review.

3. The implementation of the management guidelines set forth in this document is governed by the availability of manpower and funds.

General Description of the Area

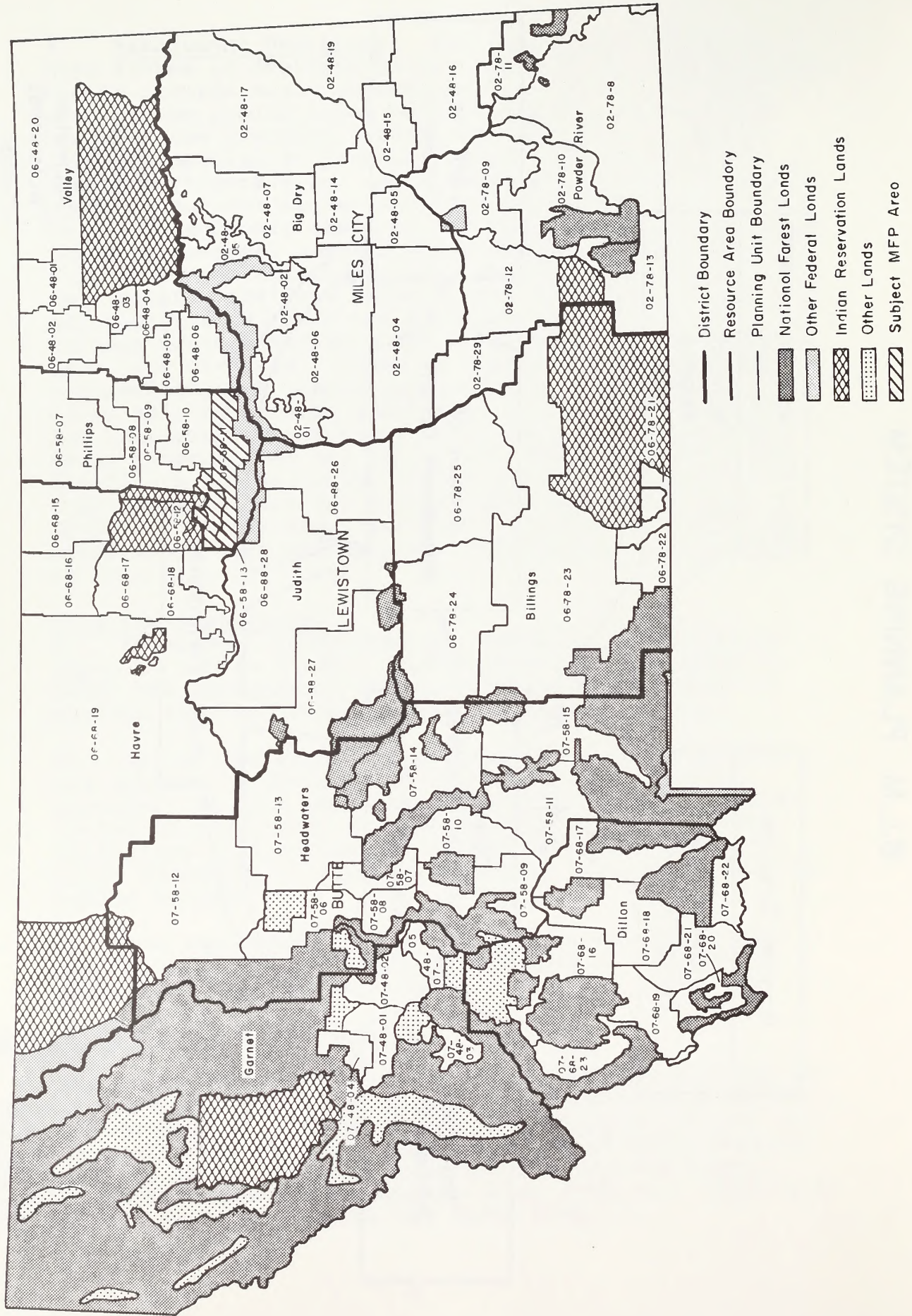
The South Bearpaw Planning Unit encompasses a region of approximately 361,000 acres in Blaine and Chouteau Counties (see map on page 4). There are no towns located within the planning unit, but several towns lie 10 to 30 miles outside the planning unit. These communities include Big Sandy, population 827; Cleveland, population 4; Landusky, population 50; and Winifred, population 220 (1970 Census).

B.L.M. PLANNING SYSTEM



- Lands
- Minerals
- Range
- Recreation
- Watersheds
- Timber
- Wildlife

MONTANA PLANNING UNITS



The most dominant and important physical features include the Missouri River which forms the southern boundary for the planning unit. The lower sections of Birch Creek and most of Cow Creek are the only two streams that approach a perennial water flow, and this is dependent on the amount of precipitation each year.

Valleys, ridges, table land, and rolling hills constitute the topography of the planning unit. Along the Missouri River, geologic erosion has produced highly dissected, rough terrain resulting in spectacular, varied, and highly scenic badlands and break areas. This topography is common to an area two to ten miles in width along the river.

The great number of slopes in the area affects livestock movement, both in grazing distribution and travel; the cattle tend to travel up and down both valley bottoms and ridgetops. Very little movement takes place across drainages. Cattle use diminishes as the slope steepness increases.

Several gas fields are located in the planning unit and there are currently 40 producible wells on these fields.

The Missouri River, which forms the southern boundary of the planning unit, is part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers classification.

The planning unit abounds with historical and recreational sites including several Lewis and Clark campsites and two operating ferry crossings. The Upper Missouri River, which forms the southern boundary of the planning unit, has been designated as the Upper Missouri River Wild and Scenic Area.

Agriculture is the major contributor of the area's economy with livestock providing nearly two-thirds of the agriculture-related revenue in the South Bearpaw Planning Unit.

More than half of the planning unit surface lands are classified as public lands with scattered tracts of private and state lands. Approximately 78% of the subsurface mineral estate is in federal ownership.

OWNERSHIP AND ACREAGE STATISTICS

	<u>Public Lands</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>%</u>
Surface	243,000	68	17,900	5	95,100	27
Subsurface	277,000	78	17,900	5	62,100	17

Major Issues and Problems

Few major environmental and social-economic issues have surfaced in the South Bearpaw Planning Unit. The impact of intensified oil and natural gas exploration and development on resource values (through surface disturbance activity) is a major environmental problem. Range management problems include sagebrush control and protection of wildlife habitat in grazing areas. The major socio-economic problem is the out-migration of people from the area due to lack of economic opportunities.

LANDS

Background

BLM's lands program is designed to meet public needs for land and to support public lands management programs. The land area in this planning unit is 361,371 acres. Ownership of the land area is portrayed in Table 1 below. The largest ownership belongs to the U.S. Government, being 242,587 acres. BLM has sole management responsibility on the majority of its 229,973 acres, which is 64% of the planning unit area. The remainder of the U.S. Government ownership comprising 12,614 acres (3%) is withdrawn for power site classification with the exception of three tracts (183 acres) which are public water reserves. The second largest ownership belongs to the private sector. Private ownership comprises 96,110 acres or 27%. The state of Montana owns 17,930 acres which accounts for 5% of the area. The smallest ownership is associated with Indian ownership or management. It amounts to 4,744 acres or 1% of the planning unit area.

TABLE 1

LAND OWNERSHIP

County	Public Lands BLM	Power Site Withdrawal Public Water Reserve	Indian Lands	State	Private	Total
Chouteau	39,888	4,572	--	4,985	36,561	86,006
Blaine	190,085	8,042	4,744	12,945	59,549	275,365
TOTAL	229,973	12,614	4,744	17,930	96,110	361,371
% of Total	64%	3%	1%	5%	27%	100%

In addition, the northern half of the Missouri River and its river bed within the South Bearpaw Planning Unit has been designated as part of the Upper Missouri River Component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. All land within the system is managed in compliance with the River Management Plan.

Management effectiveness depends on many factors, one of which is land ownership pattern. Generally speaking, the planning unit has a relatively good ownership pattern to permit the Bureau to effectively manage and control the land and use of the resources. The major part of the BLM lands are well blocked and sufficient in size to allow flexibility for management changes. Public lands under BLM are consolidated in the east half; however, the west half has more intermingled private land ownership, and consequently, Bureau management is more affected by the uses on the adjacent private lands. Where dissimilar uses occur side by side, freedom of flexibility to change uses is diminished.

There are a few small tracts of public lands surrounded by private lands in the west half. Management is usually quite limited or is frequently overshadowed by the management or use practices of the adjacent private land ownership.

Grazing by livestock and wildlife is the prevailing use of the land area. Other major land uses include private cropland, recreation, mining, and various distribution systems for utilities. No major population centers exist within the planning unit, and population density is less than 0.1 person per square mile.

There have been relatively few applications for rights-of-way across public lands in the past. With new and increased demand on public land, it is probable that rights-of-way will be needed for water facilities, pipelines, power lines, and roads.

Land Decisions

Provide for the granting of right-of-way uses throughout the entire planning unit subject to the following restrictions: all antiquities and objects of historic or scientific value will be protected through site inspection and moderation of impacts; no right-of-way uses will be allowed in areas that cannot be satisfactorily stabilized and revegetated; no permanent disturbances that can be viewed from the high water surface of the Missouri River will be allowed; and all roads and trails will be located and designed in such a manner as to minimize adverse impacts on wildlife.

Environmental Overview

The land use decisions in this unit favor granting rights-of-way for power and telephone lines, pipelines, roads, and irrigation canals as the need arises. They will be authorized only when protective stipulations can minimize adverse impacts.

Social well-being, income, and the general economy of the area could be adversely affected if rights-of-way were not granted. Conversely, possible negative short and long term impacts could occur within or near these localized areas. These could affect water quality and quantity, visual resources, historic sites and trails, wildlife habitat, and undiscovered cultural resources.

MINERALS

Background

BLM's mineral program includes economic analysis, appraisal, and development of mineral resources. Development may proceed by lease, license, or permit on both public mineral estate lands (private surface and federal minerals) and acquired mineral estate lands. The coordination of exploration and mining activities with other land uses and the provisions for protection and rehabilitation of mined lands are also an important part of the program.

A variety of mineral commodities are known to be present in the planning unit. Bentonite, natural gas, oil, coal, sand, and gravel represent most of the known mineral commodities with some potential for development. Natural gas and bentonite seem to have the greatest potential for development at present. Although no bentonite is presently produced in the area, natural gas production is significant.

Natural Gas and Oil

Geologic formations which are potential oil and gas producers are present near the surface and at depth throughout the planning unit. However, nearly all production has some from fault block traps in the relatively shallow Eagle sandstone formation. Rock strata lying below the Eagle sandstone formation are relatively untested for oil and gas. Several of the strata are known to produce oil and gas in other areas.

To date, only natural gas has been produced in commercial quantities. No marketable oil has yet been discovered, but potential exists in deeper horizons which are as yet untested.

Present exploration and extraction activity for natural gas is intense and increasing within the planning unit. Numerous wells are drilled each year. The number of wells being drilled is expected to increase with the increasing demand for natural gas. Current average under lease is about 278,000 acres or more than 96% of the mineral estate for the entire planning unit. (242,000 acres or 99% of the public lands and 30,000 acres of 90% of the federally owned minerals underlying privately owned surface.)

Coal

Coal occurs throughout much of the planning unit in lens-shaped pockets in the upper part of the Judith River

Formation and in the upper part of the Eagle sandstone. The lensatic shape of the beds means that any one seam pinches out and disappears when traced laterally for any distance. Maximum thicknesses are 6 feet for the Judith River and 3 feet for the Eagle.

It is possible that some down-faulted coal in the Fort Union Formation may occur. Limited production of coal has occurred in the past but none is presently being mined. It is unlikely that coal production will become significant in the planning unit due to the unsuitability of coal deposits for strip mining and the availability of hydroelectric power in the region.

Bentonite

Bentonite beds are common throughout the planning unit, occurring in the Colorado Shale, Claggett Shale, and Bearpaw Shale Formations. Many of the beds are suitable for commercial production, but no bentonite claims currently exist in the planning unit. Active bentonite claims located 20 miles north of the planning unit appear to have adequate reserves to meet demands for the future.

Sand, Gravel, and Stone

Sand and gravel deposits are relatively rare, being confined to stream terraces or alluvial fans on the flanks of the Bearpaw and Little Rocky Mountains. Much of the material consists of minor amounts of marble size gravel with fine gravel and sand. The high percentage of fine material severely limits its suitability for use. Volcanic flows and igneous dikes are present, but their suitability as a source of stone has not been evaluated. Generally, gravel must be hauled in from outside the planning unit.

Mineral Decisions

1. Provide for the leasing of all federal oil and gas pursuant to the mineral leasing acts. In addition, an environmental assessment will be prepared to determine if restrictions or prohibitions are necessary to limit surface occupancy in order to protect historical, geological, and archaeological sites; crucial wildlife habitat areas; and steep slopes where satisfactory rehabilitation cannot be achieved. No permanent disturbances or structures will be permitted that can be viewed from the high water surface of the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River. Areas disturbed by exploration activity (drill pads, pits, access trails,

etc.) will be returned to contour and reseeded wherever possible. Necessary roads and trails will be located and designed to minimize adverse impacts on wildlife. All unnecessary roads will be rehabilitated and closed when no longer needed.

2. Coal leases will be granted only in compliance with constraints identified by a complete interdisciplinary environmental analysis. Lease areas must also meet all the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, including determination of suitability for reclamation, protection of sensitive areas, and surface owner consent.

3. Inventory potential mineral extraction areas for coal. Define extent of coal exposures and relationships to other resources.

4. Inventory present vehicle access system and develop a vehicle access plan for the entire planning unit.

5. Allow oil and gas companies to use available surplus water from BLM stock water reservoirs. All requests will be subject to constraints identified by an interdisciplinary environmental analysis. Only presently available access routes may be used. Adequate water supplies will be maintained for cattle, fisheries, and waterfowl. No sediments or polluting agents will be discharged into a reservoir.

6. Allow for a pipeline crossing of the Missouri River in the vicinity of the Stafford Ferry.

Each of the six decisions presented above were made to help meet a growing local and national demand for energy sources with minimal environmental disturbance. The United States faces a serious impending shortage of oil and natural gas with consumption of these commodities increasing faster than the rate of discovery of new reserves. By encouraging the orderly development of oil, gas, and coal resources with minimum disturbance of the environment, these energy sources will be available to add to the nation's energy supply.

7. Locate and inventory potential gravel sources for road surfacing materials in the planning unit. Increased vehicle traffic is expected in the planning unit due to increased recreation use and oil and gas activity in the area. By conducting an inventory and environmental analysis, the BLM can be prepared for increased demands for road surfacing materials while minimizing impacts to other resources.



NOTE GRAVITY FAULT IN UPPER LEFT OF PHOTO. AN AREA IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF THE PLANNING UNIT CONTAINS TOPOGRAPHY OF THIS KIND. THESE EXPOSED MINERAL LAYERS ARE INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING ANY VEGETATION. (GILKERSON #57, 1977)

Environmental Overview

Mineral development, primarily natural gas, is having a profound impact on the area. These impacts will continue to increase. Intensified exploration and extraction activities inevitably affect other resource values through surface disturbance activities such as road, pipeline, and drill pad construction. Such activities will have short term adverse impacts upon watershed stability, livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic beauty of the immediate area. However, long term impacts should be slight if proper procedures are followed to protect the environment.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Background

Forest resources in the South Bearpaw Planning Unit consist of slow growing stands of ponderosa pine and douglas fir and cover about 25% (60,625 acres) of the public land in the planning unit. Of this, about 16,495 acres have a sufficiently high site index (growth rate) to allow timber harvests on a sustained yield basis. The balance of the forested areas commonly have steep slopes, low rainfall, and poorly developed soils. As a result, forest products are a minor resource in the South Bearpaw Planning Unit.

Forest Products Decisions

1. Continue to sell fence posts, corral poles, house logs, Christmas trees, and commercial timber subject to the following restrictions: timber sales will be prohibited in the Missouri Wild and Scenic River corridor unless sales are in accordance with the river management plan; a wildlife biologist and other resource specialists will be required to make recommendations for mitigating measures prior to any timber harvest; new road construction to reach timber sale areas will be restricted; harvesting will be allowed only by use of shelterwood, seed-tree, or group selection methods (no clear-cuts); and Christmas tree sale areas will be premarked and limited to areas determined by a forester. Restrictions and mitigating measures are put in forest product sale contracts to insure protection of grazing, wildlife habitat, watershed, residual timber, and other resource values.

2. Steps will be taken to allow the issuance of free-use permits for fuelwood with appropriate measures to protect wildlife and other values. Public demand for woodfuels for home use has increased greatly with the energy shortage. Free-use permits for firewood would help meet local needs for fuel.

3. Inventories will be made to segregate productive and non-productive forest stands, delineate scenic areas, identify wildlife habitat, and determine potential areas for timber stand improvement.

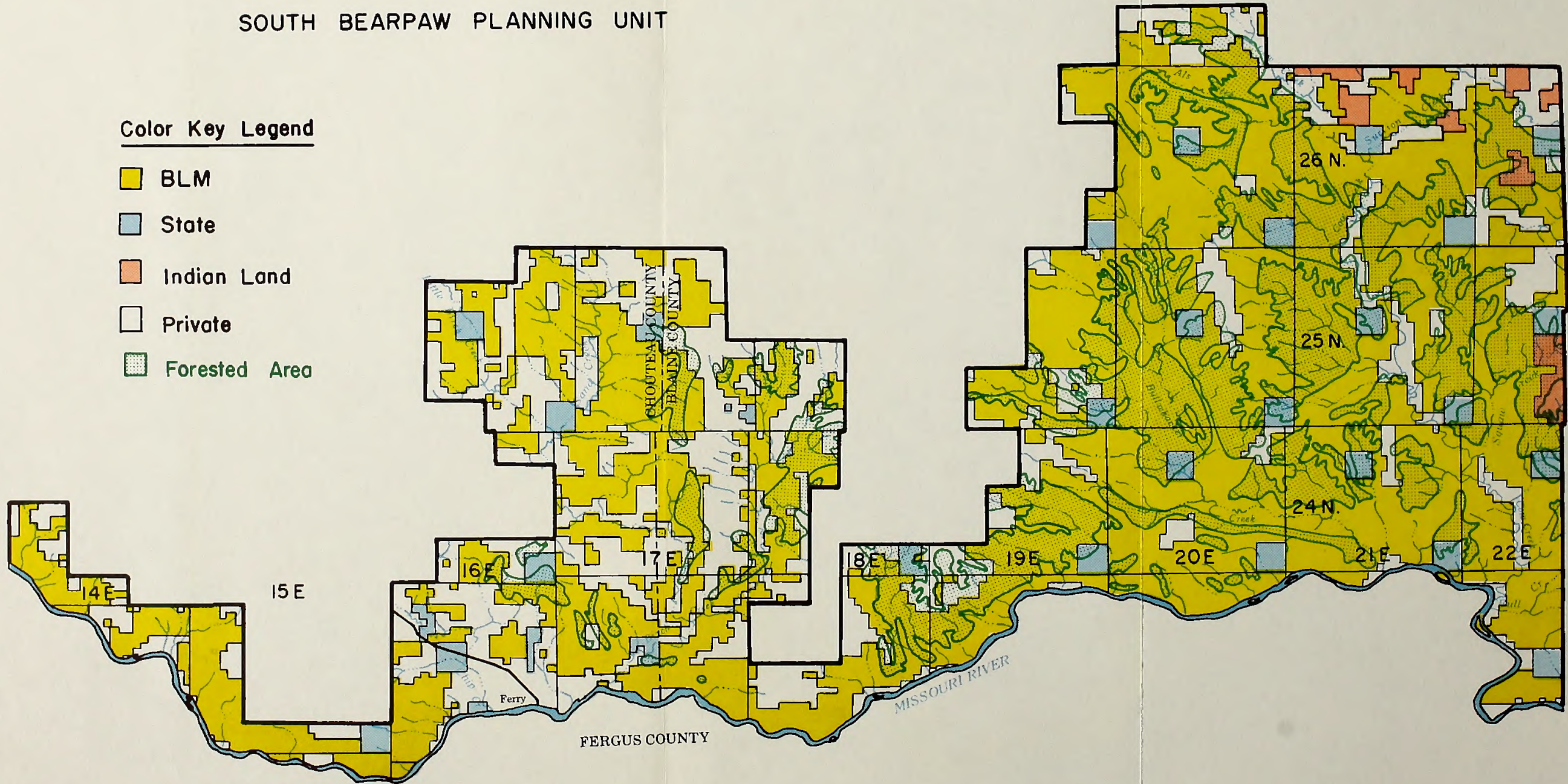
Environmental Overview

Decisions were made to allow timber harvest only after proper mitigating measures have been prescribed to minimize adverse impacts upon the environment. The historical demand for commercial forest products has been low and sporadic, indicating slight economic and social significance. The demand for firewood is increasing and may be met by harvests of dead, diseased, decadent, or overmature timber in the planning unit. Timber quality and harvest activity are low in the planning unit and impacts from timber activities are minor.

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT

Color Key Legend

- BLM
- State
- Indian Land
- Private
- Forested Area



RANGE MANAGEMENT

Background

Most of the South Bearpaw Planning Unit is comprised of rangeland contributing to the local agricultural economy. Twenty-three thousand three hundred ninety-two (23,392) animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage are currently administered under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. There is roughly a six month average grazing season which indicates that nearly 4,000 head of cattle are dependent on this forage. The bulk of this forage is utilized during the summer months although some grazing is authorized for spring, fall, and winter.

Range types within the planning unit consist of three broad vegetative types: grass, brush and shrubs, and conifer. The grass type comprises about 37,853 acres with major forage species being western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass, blue grama, and needle-and-thread. The brush and shrub type is the largest and consists of about 163,181 acres with green needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, and blue grama being the major forage species. A conifer type with major forage species of bluebunch wheatgrass and western wheatgrass comprises about 20,333 acres.

There are seven implemented allotment management plans (AMPs) in the planning unit. The AMPs provide intensive grazing management through the use of rotation grazing systems designed to meet the needs of key plants for vigor and reproduction. Grazing in the remainder of the planning unit is authorized through regular licenses, specifying seasons of use and livestock numbers.

Several problems regarding livestock use in the planning unit have been identified. In some areas, sagebrush has increased over the years due to livestock overgrazing and resulted in suppressing grass production. Suppression of grass production by clubmoss and blue grama is also a major problem.

Range Management Decisions

1. Implement or maintain intensive grazing management systems through allotment management plans (AMPs) on 32 suitable designated areas. All AMPs will be subject to several considerations. A primary objective will be to










VIEW OF TYPICAL GRAZING RANGE IN PLANNING AREA, 1964.
(BURR #387, 1964)

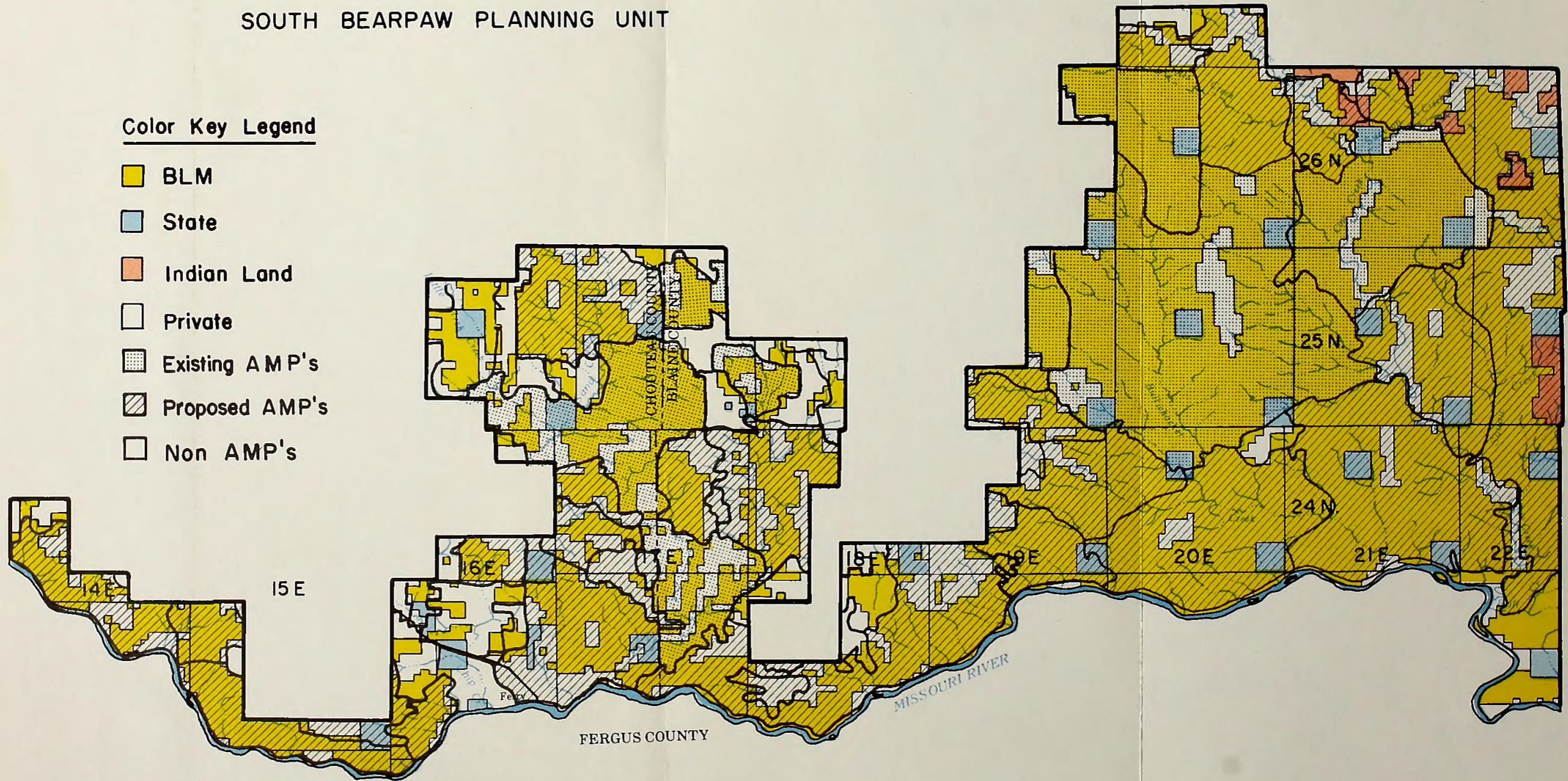


SAME RANGE AREA IN 1977. FORAGE SPECIES IN THIS
PHOTO SUITABLE FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING INCLUDE
WESTERN WHEATGRASS, BLUEGRAMA, GREEN NEEDLEGRASS,
AND NEEDLE AND THREAD. LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON BLM
LAND IS VITAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. (GILKERSON
#49, 1977)

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT

Color Key Legend

-  BLM
-  State
-  Indian Land
-  Private
-  Existing AMP's
-  Proposed AMP's
-  Non AMP's



increase ground cover for watershed protection. The grazing system in allotments containing crucial or high value wildlife habitat will meet the phenological requirements of the primary wildlife forage species. In those allotments that are reduced below the base property qualification, forage increases will be allocated to livestock until the base property qualification is satisfied. Additional forage above the base property qualification or stocking level established by recent range survey will be awarded to watershed, wildlife, and (when these needs are satisfied) livestock.

No additional livestock waters will be developed on the terminal portions of ridges in timbered areas within crucial mule deer habitat. Range improvements needed to implement AMPs will be designed to blend into the natural environment, located so as not to disturb significant archaeological, historical, or geological sites, and designed in a manner in which all surface disturbances can be rehabilitated. No livestock AMPs within the Missouri Wild and Scenic River plan and potential wilderness study areas will be implemented until the plans or studies are completed.

Livestock production through use of the federal range is vital to the local economy. Intensive grazing systems implemented through AMPs benefit not only livestock production and range condition but also benefit other resources such as wildlife habitat, recreation, and watershed.

2. Issue non-AMP livestock permits or lease for a term of not more than ten (10) years on 17 ranch units and scattered tracts within existing AMPs. These ranch units contain small amounts of public lands relative to private ownership. The ability and practicality of regulating livestock use in these areas is marginal, and allotment management plans are not necessary. However, licensing and permit procedures combined with field inspections will be necessary to protect the public lands.

3. Initiate an exchange program for state land and an inventory of private inholdings that should be acquired for exchange in allotments proposed for intensive management. Grazing administration would be simplified with a blocked land ownership pattern and range improvements could be installed in conjunction with AMPs without obtaining an easement. In addition, the stability of a grazing operation is highly dependent on private control of these inholdings. Extensive investments of federal money in AMPs can be put in jeopardy when these private tracts are sold. Total federal ownership would minimize the problem.

4. Review and update grazing allotment data to insure that grazing licenses, permits, and leases are accurate. Information presently available on allotment boundaries, land ownership, fences, etc., is often outdated or incomplete. As the level of management intensifies, it is necessary to know precisely what exists on the ground. Obtaining such data requires the following actions including making a complete review and update of grazing files, writing range line agreements on all grazing allotment boundaries, and making allotment analyses of licensed and leased lands to define pasture boundaries and carrying capacities for grazing licenses and leases followed by AMPs and/or season and number licenses or leases.

5. Determine the status of horses in the Ervin Ridge area. A plan of action for gathering horses will be submitted to the Montana State Office. After approval of the plan, the horses will be gathered to determine ownership. If the horses are determined to be wild, under federal law a management plan will be developed. Declining range conditions are resulting from horse use over and above cattle use. The horses must be considered for proper management of the range resource.

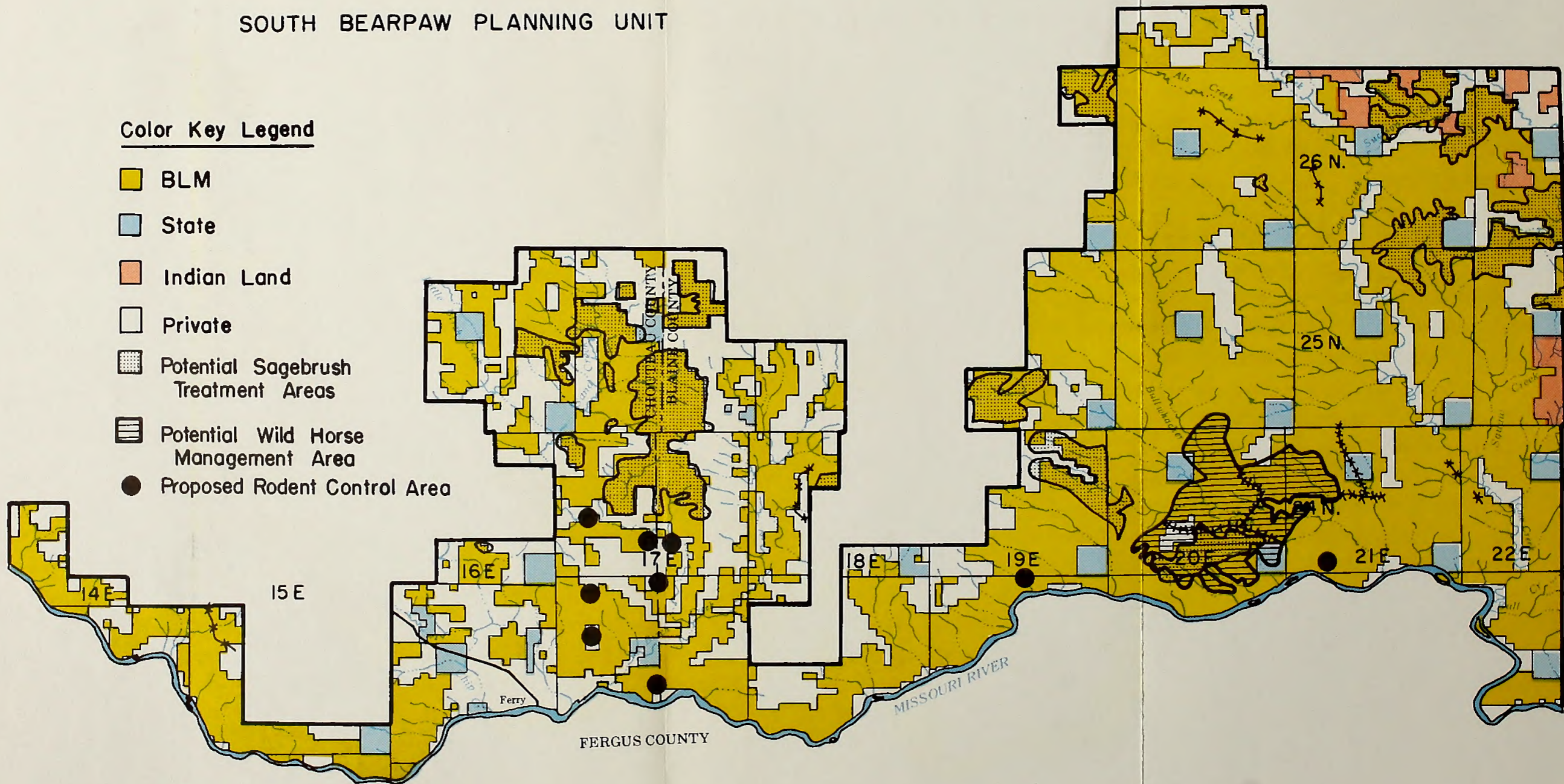
Environmental Overview

Livestock forage decisions are directed at maintaining and/or improving the vegetation resource. Improved range conditions and increased forage production can be expected to provide benefits to all activities dependent on a sustained yield of quality rangeland vegetation. The forage allocation to livestock is 24,356 animal unit months (AUMs) or approximately 40% of a total production of 60,912 AUMs in the planning unit. The livestock forage allocation will be administered in allotments under seven existing allotment management plans (AMPs), 25 proposed AMPs, with the remainder in non-AMP management. Various range improvements such as fences, reservoirs, and land treatments are proposed in the allotments and will be managed under grazing systems. The 60% of unallocated forage should insure plant vigor and reproduction, provide watershed protection and wildlife habitat, and enhance aesthetic and recreation values.

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT

Color Key Legend

- BLM
- State
- Indian Land
- Private
- Potential Sagebrush Treatment Areas
- Potential Wild Horse Management Area
- Proposed Rodent Control Area



- Proposed Wild Horse Management Fences
- Proposed Allotment Pasture Fences

WATERSHED

Background

BLM is responsible for managing public land watersheds to stabilize soils, produce water, and enhance water quality. Closely coordinated management of all resources and activity operations is stressed to maintain or improve watershed conditions.

The soils of the planning unit are developed from the Bearpaw shales and Judith River sandstones. The Judith River sandstones lie west of Birch Creek and along drainages throughout the South Bearpaw Planning Unit. At higher elevations, soils are developing on tertiary alluvial deposits. Soils in the planning unit are generally fine textured with a high clay content. The soils are easily eroded because of low water infiltration rates and high water yields. On steep slopes, which are common throughout the planning unit, native vegetation is necessary to hold the easily eroded soils in place. Natural geologic erosion is occurring at high rates in the breaks along the Missouri River and its major tributaries. Care must be used during any surface disturbance activity in the planning unit to insure that erosion is not initiated or increased.

Watershed Decisions

1. Livestock grazing on public land will be regulated to increase vegetation and litter cover sufficiently to reduce bare ground below 30%. Watershed studies have shown that a minimum of 60-70% ground cover is required to control overland waterflow and soil erosion.

2. Restrict activities within certain areas. Livestock grazing will be excluded from the restricted use area (K-4). All surface disturbance activities will be excluded from the K-4 areas and from slopes exceeding 25% without a site-specific examination and approval by a surface protection specialist. In addition, the watershed management areas will be closed to off-road vehicle travel. These areas have highly unstable watershed conditions. Any surface or vegetal disturbance will aggravate and add to the extensive erosion already occurring on these fragile areas. Site-specific examinations of these sites prior to any disturbances are necessary to insure that they can be totally rehabilitated before significant soil loss occurs.




THIS 1905 PHOTO DEPICTS FAULT CONTACT OF JUDITH RIVER BEDS WITH BEARPAW SHALES LOCATED ON COW CREEK, 10 MILES ABOVE ITS MOUTH IN BLAINE COUNTY. (STANTON #126, 1905)

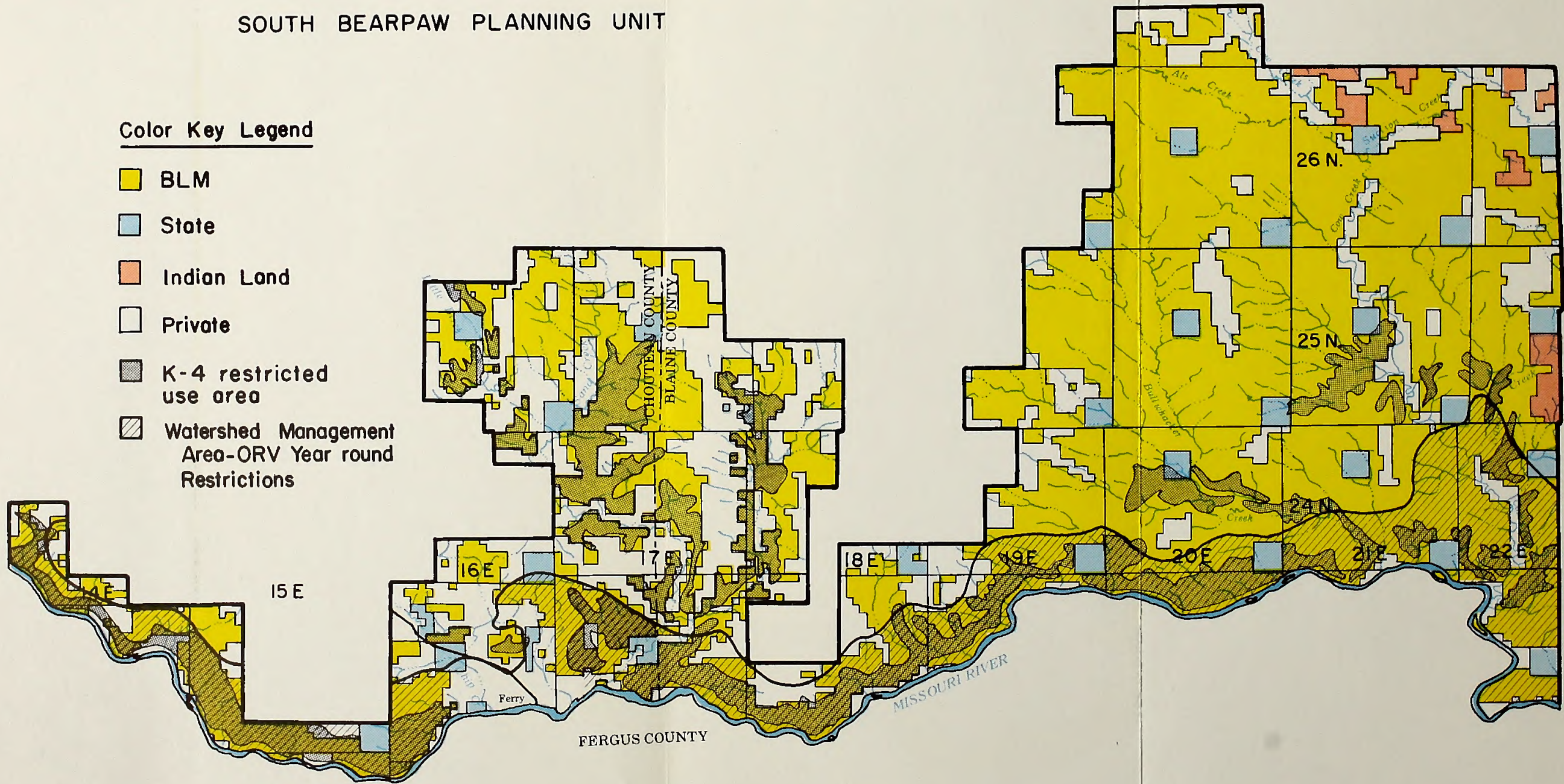


PHOTO WAS RETAKEN IN 1977 FROM THE BARE CLAY POINT IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE OLDER PHOTO. THE VEGETATION OF THE AREA APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED VERY LITTLE.

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT

Color Key Legend

-  BLM
-  State
-  Indian Land
-  Private
-  K-4 restricted use area
-  Watershed Management Area-ORV Year round Restrictions



3. Apply cultural treatments (vegetative manipulation and watershed tillage) to some areas if response to grazing management is not achieved. Continued high soil losses above that of normal geologic erosion are not tolerable for existing resource uses dependent on a vegetated productive soil mantle.

4. Develop a transportation (vehicle access) plan for the entire planning unit. Watershed damage is accelerating due to the increase in energy exploration for oil and gas. Erosion is aggravated by not closing access trails and by improper rehabilitation practices in past operations.

5. Control wildfires and prohibit controlled burns to prevent watershed deterioration and land slump. Fires in much of the planning unit will result in excessive erosion during the next two years. Suppression activity needs to be sufficient to keep burned areas at a minimum.

6. Obtain color aerial photographs with stereo pairs for the entire planning unit. Such photos are needed to update land use data and to evaluate specific watershed situations.

7. A qualified watershed specialist should design and carry out an extensive inventory of water resources in the planning unit to accurately document water quality problems and sources, potential water uses, erosion sources, and water yield problems as related to other land use activities.

Environmental Overview

Most watershed actions are aimed at modifying, restricting, and coordinating the action of other activities. Since other activities often impact the vegetal soil complex, the watershed activity must insure that watershed conditions are not adversely affected. Livestock management, mineral exploration and extraction, and wildlife management practices are modified as a result of watershed decisions. Because moderating stipulations are included in the decisions, adverse impacts on other activities are slight.

The only specific watershed activity recommendation is for vegetative manipulation and watershed tillage of certain areas. These treatments will occur only after other forms of land use management have been proven ineffective.

A decision was made to formulate an adequate data base using proper expertise to develop more specific watershed recommendations.

WILDLIFE

Background

BLM is responsible for managing the public land habitat to maintain or improve food, cover, and living space. The South Bearpaw Planning Unit provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Mule deer range throughout the entire planning unit, often concentrating their use where breaks with coniferous cover are interspersed with sagebrush/grass uplands.

Infrequent observations indicate that elk from the adjacent Nichols Coulee Resource Conservation Area make limited use of the east half of the South Bearpaw Planning Unit. Potential habitat exists to support increasing elk numbers in this portion of the planning unit.

Pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridges, and a few black-tailed prairie dog towns occupy the more open sagebrush/grass uplands. The pronghorn antelope and sage grouse are particularly dependent upon areas of high sagebrush density.

Riparian vegetation along the Missouri River and major streams provides yearlong habitat for white-tailed deer as well as many species of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Many reservoirs provide nesting and brooding habitat for waterfowl. A few reservoirs are stocked with trout for sport fishing. Trout do not reproduce at self-sustaining rates and must be stocked periodically. A potential exists for self-sustaining fisheries of warm water species in some reservoirs. The Missouri River provides a warm water fishery for northern pike, largemouth bass, bluegill, and paddlefish.

Birds of prey range throughout the entire planning area. Both bald and golden eagles are known to nest within the planning unit. Predators are common and are of economic concern to local ranchers when they prey on livestock. Coyotes are the most numerous and controversial predator. Bobcats, badgers, raccoons, and skunks are also present.

Threatened or endangered species known to occur in the planning unit include the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon. The presence of the blackfooted ferret in the vicinity of prairie dog towns is a possibility but has not been documented.



COW CREEK CANYON AREA, BLAINE COUNTY 1925. NOTE THE RIPARIAN VEGETATION ALONG THE STREAM BED. (DUNNING #881, 1925)



DETAILED SHOT OF THE SAME AREA IN 1977. RIPARIAN VEGETATION ALONG RIVERS AND MAJOR STREAMS PROVIDES YEARLONG HABITAT FOR MANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IN THE AREA. (GILKERSON #55, 1977)

Much of the wildlife habitat on public lands is intermingled with privately owned lands. This divergent land ownership pattern makes it difficult to implement site-specific habitat management programs on public lands. The intermingled lands are often treated as a single management unit. The resulting wildlife resource allocation decisions are designed to be broad in scope and generally do not address tracts of land.

Wildlife Decisions

1. Design or modify livestock grazing systems to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. Delay livestock turn-in dates as determined by a range reading index to prevent competition with wildlife for green plant growth in the early spring. Design grazing formulas to meet the phenological requirements of key browse species required for wildlife habitat. Require all new grazing systems to have an interdisciplinary review including input from the District Wildlife Biologist. Prepare an interdisciplinary Environmental Assessment Record (EAR) prior to authorizing unscheduled use of rested pastures to insure that adequate space and vegetation are available for wildlife habitat needs. Develop no additional livestock waters on the terminal portions of timbered "finger ridges" and evaluate existing waters in such areas to determine adverse impacts on wildlife. Timbered "finger ridges" are used heavily by mule deer. Water developments tend to concentrate livestock resulting in serious forage competition between mule deer and livestock. In addition, allow no future water developments in elk habitat areas except in conjunction with approved allotment management plans. This will minimize competition with livestock and horses.

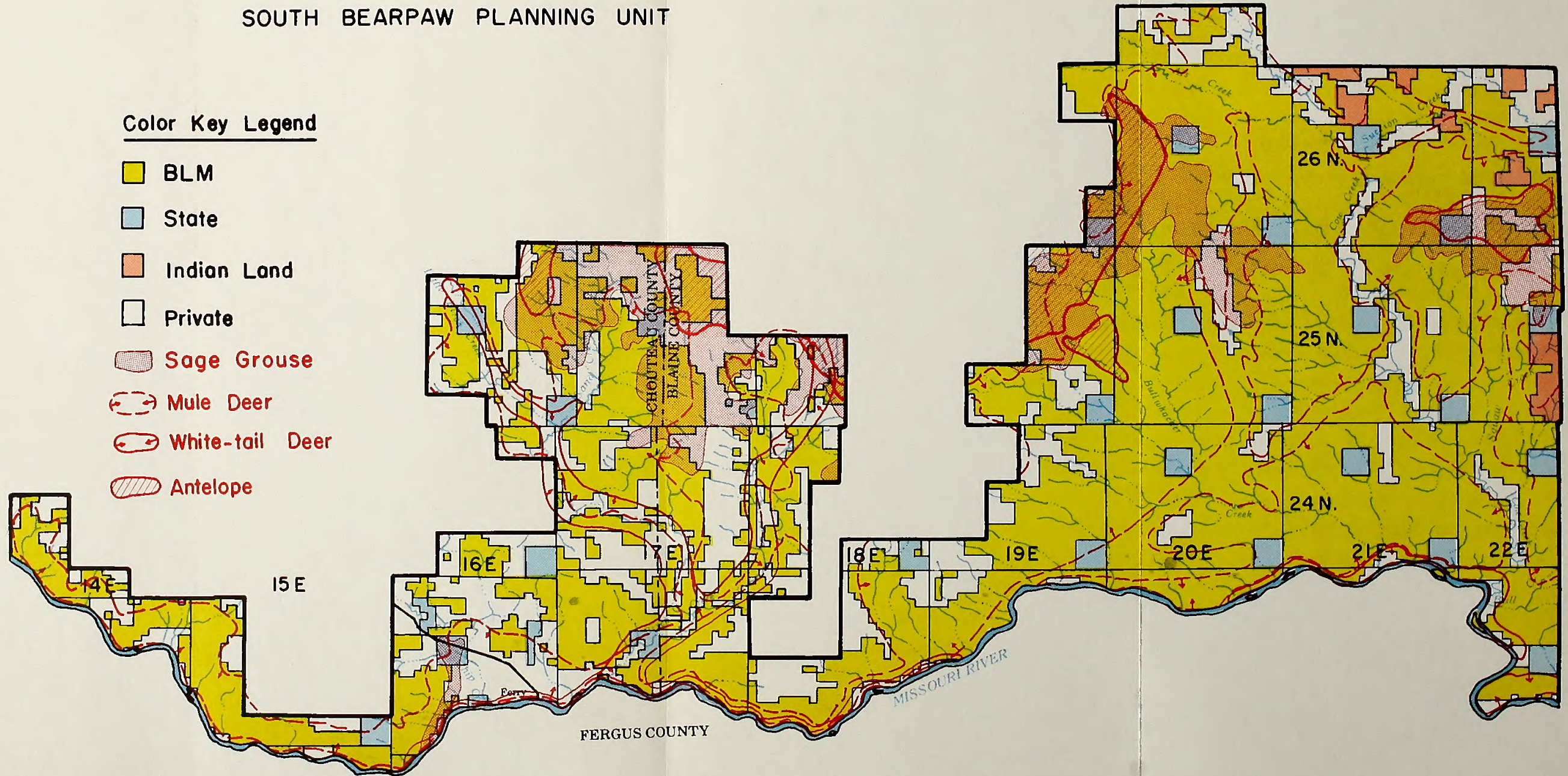
2. Control leasable and salable mineral exploration and extraction activities to prevent degradation of wildlife habitat. Prepare an interdisciplinary EAR (including input from the wildlife habitat) prior to issuance of any new oil and gas leases. In addition, develop a transportation (vehicle access) plan which adequately reflects wildlife habitat requirements.

3. Conduct inventories to quantify wildlife habitat conditions and potential. Conduct a study to determine the extent of competition between "feral" (wild and free roaming) horses and wildlife on crucial and high value wildlife habitat areas. Inventory and analyze elk habitat to determine habitat conditions, conflicts, and limiting factors. The information will be used to develop specific future elk

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT

Color Key Legend

- BLM
- State
- Indian Land
- Private
- Sage Grouse
- Mule Deer
- White-tail Deer
- Antelope



management guidelines to increase elk numbers. Perform an intensive wildlife habitat inventory for mule deer on the Cow and Bullwhacker Creeks, drainages, and the remainder of the planning unit for all game, threatened and endangered species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) and related legislation require that BLM ensure that threatened or endangered species and their critical habitat are not jeopardized. Conduct an aquatic habitat inventory to identify a fisheries potential on five existing BLM reservoirs. The inventory will be made to meet increasing public demand for fishing opportunities. The survey will be of existing BLM reservoirs for potential waterfowl development. Development of goose nesting islands on existing reservoirs will increase nesting opportunities and reproductive success among geese. Construct a wildlife livestock exclosure along the riparian type habitat of Cow Creek. Exclosure studies will identify the interrelationships of livestock and wildlife use of riparian habitats to help formulate management guidelines.

4. Survey and design of proposed new reservoirs will be undertaken in consultation with the District Fisheries Biologist. This procedure insures that potential fisheries are identified and reservoirs which have potential are constructed to meet fisheries habitat requirements.

Fence livestock away from the banks of reservoirs which support good fisheries. This will reduce turbidity and sediment which limit fish production by prevention of shoreline trampling and overgrazing. In reservoirs that exhibit suitable habitat for warm water fish, develop self-sustaining fisheries that would not need stocking. The reservoirs would help meet growing public demand for sport fisheries.

5. Formulate a wildlife habitat management plan to include all wildlife species within the planning unit. A comprehensive plan is necessary regarding management alternatives and goals for all species in the planning unit. The plan would provide guidelines and constraints to all other activity plans which would impact wildlife habitat within the planning unit.

6. Acquire key tracts of land to further proper management of wildlife on public lands. The tracts will provide expanded wildlife habitat management capability and increase public access to public lands. Five black-tailed prairie dog towns would be brought under BLM management through acquisition of the tracts.

7. Prohibit all mechanical and chemical treatment of crucial or high value sage grouse and antelope habitat areas except for the sole purpose of watershed protection and improvement. Such treatment will be considered only after it is determined that intensive livestock grazing management was ineffective in retarding accelerated erosion. Mechanical and chemical land treatments have been found detrimental to sage grouse and antelope habitat.

8. Designate sage grouse strutting grounds and prairie dog towns as public viewing areas. Such areas will help meet public demand for environmental education, nature study and photographic opportunities.

Management actions are aimed at benefitting wildlife habitat and the associated wildlife species. Decisions are directed at protecting, improving and expanding specific habitat areas such as the sage grouse breeding complex, high value antelope and mule deer range, and reservoirs capable of producing fish and waterfowl. Such decisions require modification or restriction of livestock management, watershed, and mineral exploration and extraction practices.

New inventories will provide data with which to develop specific habitat management plans. Acquisition of tracts to form more easily manageable units will be beneficial to management within all activities. Such plans will undoubtedly cause changes in the management practices of all activities.

RECREATION

Background

The South Bearpaw Planning Unit provides a wide variety of recreational activities. Such activities include sightseeing, historical study, geological study, float and power boating, swimming, primitive experiences, hunting, and fishing.

Sightseeing

The Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Corridor and its major drainages have landforms which are generally heavily eroded barren badlands offering overwhelming isolation and solitude. Many stark appearing drainages and bluffs extend back from the river and create a memorable visual impact on the river traveler. The only intrusion on these areas consists of a few ranch buildings and several deserted and dilapidated buildings which are historic remnants of early homestead and ranching attempts.

Historical

The planning unit, especially the portion of the planning unit within the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River corridor, is rich in early history of the West.

Lewis and Clark traveled along the Missouri River on their way west in 1805. On the return journey in 1806, Lewis's party again traveled along the Missouri heading east. Numerous campsites and landmarks along the Missouri have been identified through descriptions in their journals.

Several military outpost and homestead sites remain from early attempts at settling the area. In a few cases, buildings are still standing but most have fallen completely to decay. The military posts were established to protect the settlers and steamboats bringing supplies up the Missouri River. The Upper Missouri was extremely hazardous to steamboat navigation and several points along the river are well known for their hazards. Because of wide stream and shallow water near Cow Island, many boats were unable to proceed beyond this point during low water and steamers would unload at a landing here. Consequently, the island became an important rendezvous.

With the arrival of settlers, numerous battles with Indians and smallpox epidemics among Indians occurred. In 1877, Chief Joseph led his tribe of Nez Perce Indians across

the Missouri at Cow Island near the end of the famous flight from the U.S. Army. After being refused food by a handful of solidiers and civilians guarding a stockpile of supplies, the Indians sent the guards scurrying for cover and took what they wanted. Chief Joseph's party continued up Cow Creek Canyon but were cut off and surrendered to General Miles in the Bearpaw Mountains.

Geological

Several unusual geological formations occur along the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River portion of the planning unit. Of special interest are Dark Butte, Steamboat Rock #1, Pinnacles, Two Cinder Cones and Steamboat Rock. In addition, several sites are known for the presence of fossils and petrified wood.

Boating and Swimming

Float boating of the Missouri is a major recreational activity and is increasing as the public becomes aware of its recent designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River system. Power boating is associated with float trips. Swimming is generally confined to boating trips but a low quality beach near the P.N. Ferry receives occasional use.

Hunting and Fishing

The South Bearpaw Planning Unit provides hunting opportunities for antelope, deer, and upland game birds. Antelope hunting is limited by medium to light population sizes and rough terrain but some antelope are harvested each year. Sage grouse and sharptail grouse provide some upland bird hunting opportunity but populations are quite low. The majority of the planning unit presents good opportunity for deer hunting. The area contains a large population of deer and offers ease of movement and shooting opportunities which make it a popular hunting area.


Four reservoirs are presently stocked with trout and fishing is generally good. The Missouri River provides some fishing for warm water species.


Primitive Values

Several areas are generally devoid of man-made intrusions and offer unique primitive values. Areas having such values include Spring Coulee, Chip Creek, Sand Creek, Missouri Breaks, and Bullwhacker Creek.

SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT


Color Key Legend


 BLM

 State


 Indian Land

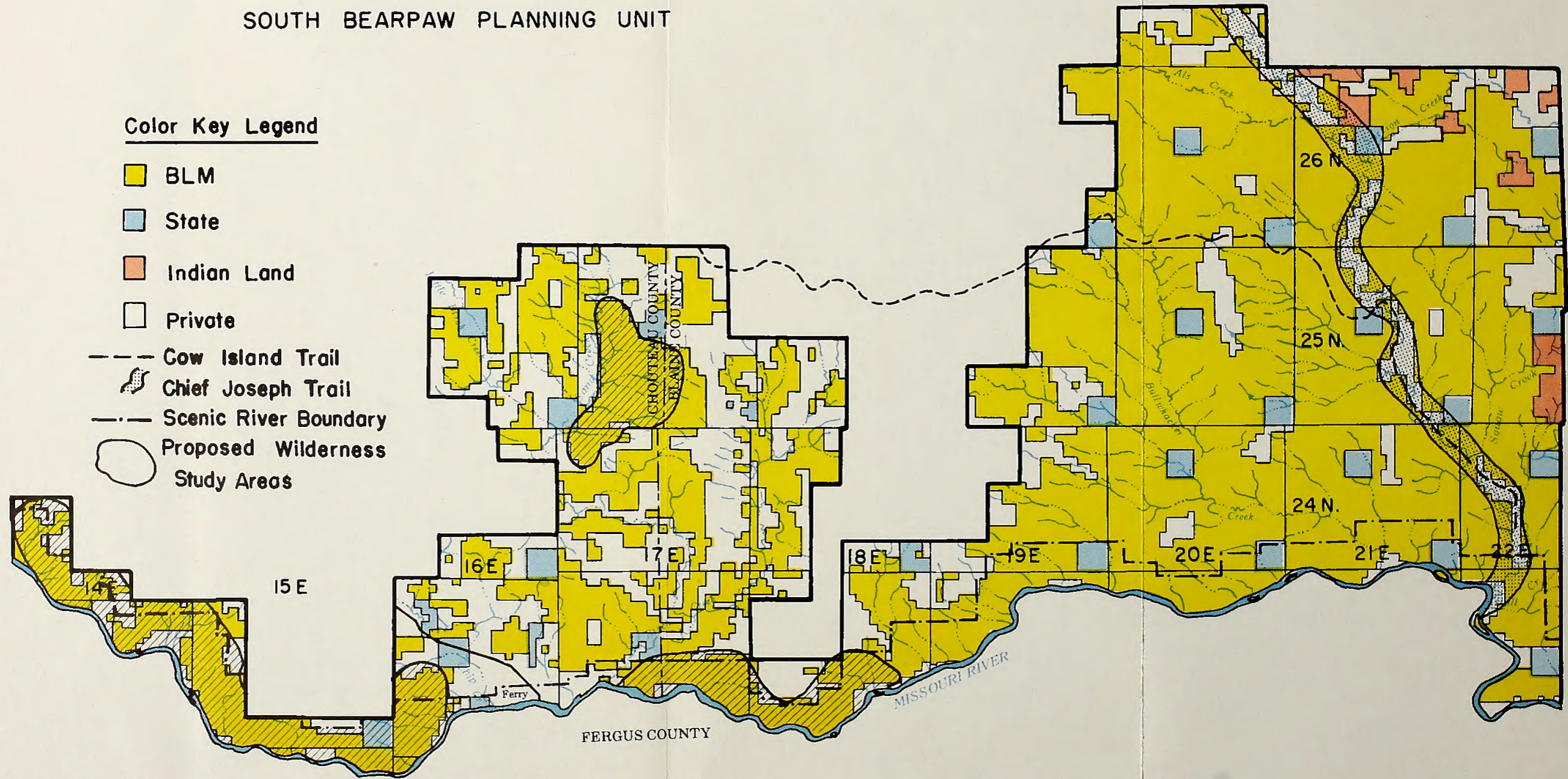
 Private

 Cow Island Trail

 Chief Joseph Trail

 Scenic River Boundary

 Proposed Wilderness Study Areas





PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE MISSOURI RIVER AS IT APPEARED IN THE SUMMER OF 1964. NOTE THE SURROUNDING TOPOGRAPHY, RIPARIAN VEGETATION, AND THE LOCATION OF THE ISLAND IN THE FOREGROUND. (BURR #457, 1964)



SIMILAR VIEW OF THE RIVER RETAKEN IN 1977. TODAY SIGHTSEEING AND FLOAT BOATING ARE MAJOR RECREATIONAL USES OF THE MISSOURI RIVER. RECENT DESIGNATION OF 145 MILES OF THE RIVER AS A NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER, WHICH INCLUDES A PORTION OF THE SOUTH BEARPAW PLANNING UNIT, WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC USE OF THIS AREA. NOTE THE NATURAL CHANGES IN ISLAND SIZES, LOCATION, AND VEGETATIVE COVER. (GILKERSON #45, 1977)

Recreation Decisions

1. Manage the scenic corridor adjacent to the Missouri River for the purpose of maintaining, protecting, and enhancing the historic, natural, visual, and archaeological values of the area. Such values will be managed under the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Plan.

2. Review all existing withdrawals to retain or revoke stock driveways, power sites, or water reserves. Much of the public land along the Missouri River is presently under a power site withdrawal. With the establishment of the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River, withdrawals which are inconsistent with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act should be revoked.

3. Acquire about 4,000 acres of private land adjacent to the Missouri River in a six to eight mile stretch near the P.N. Ferry if compatible with the River Management Plan. Federal ownership will permit more effective management within the wild and scenic river corridor.

4. Conduct intensive habitat inventories and analysis studies to determine the feasibility of transplanting Bighorn sheep along the Missouri River. Bighorn sheep were once present in the area and were reported by Lewis and Clark. Introduction of bighorn would add to the attractiveness of the scenic area and create an opportunity for river floaters to identify with historical experiences noted by Lewis and Clark. First, however, potential impacts and problems must be studied.

5. Study Cow Island Trail to determine the opportunities to develop a historical foot trail system to include interpretation of associated historic sites. Such a trail would cause little environmental disruption and offer high recreational interpretive experiences.

6. Inventory potential wilderness areas and protect wilderness values on all wilderness study areas in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Such action will assure that areas suitable for designation as wilderness will remain suitable until complete consideration can be given.

7. Inventory and analyze archaeological, cultural, geological, and fossil sites for potential and possible protective measures. From such a study, sites that require protection could be identified and management plans or other protective measures developed.

8. Acquire title to lands having historical and archaeological values that are not presently in federal ownership. Such acquisition would allow preservation of irreplaceable historical and archaeological sites that might otherwise be damaged or destroyed by commercial development.

9. Initiate visitor and hunter use studies to determine present and future human concentration areas, access problems, and future demand projections. Such information will identify needs and give justification for acquiring access rights-of-way and other developments needed to accommodate recreational users of the public lands.

10. Cooperate in preparation of wildlife habitat management plans to insure that recreational users of wildlife are satisfied.

11. Maintain present opportunities for quality fishing in reservoirs that presently provide such fishing. The reservoirs presently provide excellent fishing opportunities and receive 2,600 visitor use days per year.

12. Develop a transportation (vehicle access) plan for the planning unit. Such a plan would identify needed access, road maintenance and road abandonment to insure optimum public access while minimizing adverse visual impacts.

13. Initiate a public information campaign to encourage proper use of public lands and lend support to anti-litter efforts. Such a campaign would help develop public attitudes of respect and concern for the public lands.

14. All surface disturbing activities within the planning unit will include provisions to reduce to a minimum any adverse effects upon visual, geological and cultural resources. These resources cannot be replaced and it is the responsibility of BLM to insure that these remnants of our heritage are preserved.

15. Develop a recreation management plan for the South Bearpaw Planning Unit. An overall recreation activity plan is needed in order to develop the recreation resource to its fullest potential.

16. Nominate to the National Register of Historic Places those cultural resources identified as Significance Level I in the Cultural Resource Inventory. Prepare activity plans for all sites listed or to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Significance Level I sites



THE JUDITH FERRY ON THE MISSOURI RIVER HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A MAJOR TRANSPORTATION LINK BETWEEN FERGUS AND CHOUTEAU COUNTIES. THE ORIGINAL FERRY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OPERATED BY USE OF A SWEEP AND THE RIVER'S CURRENT TO MOVE BETWEEN BANKS. (STANTON #940, n.d.)



THE FERRY STILL PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. (GILKERSON #52, 1977)

have been evaluated and determined to meet the criteria for entry into the National Register of Historic Places; that is, they are considered to be important to the region's history or prehistory. Sites of Significance Level I quality are usually rare and unique and the National Register nomination process provides them a certain amount of legal protection. Activity plans are necessary to protect and preserve National Register sites and to ensure that these sites will be available for public enjoyment and interpretation.

Environmental Overview

Minimal impacts are expected as a result of recreation management decisions since in general they favor environmental protection and continuance of present lifestyles. Irreplaceable geological, scenic, and cultural sites of significant value will be preserved. The rich recreational resources of the Missouri River will be managed according to the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Plan.

Some restraints for protection of geological, scenic, wildlife and cultural values will cause conflicts with other uses. Such restrictions will be site specific and will not have a great impact on other uses of public lands.


Interrelationships With Other Plans

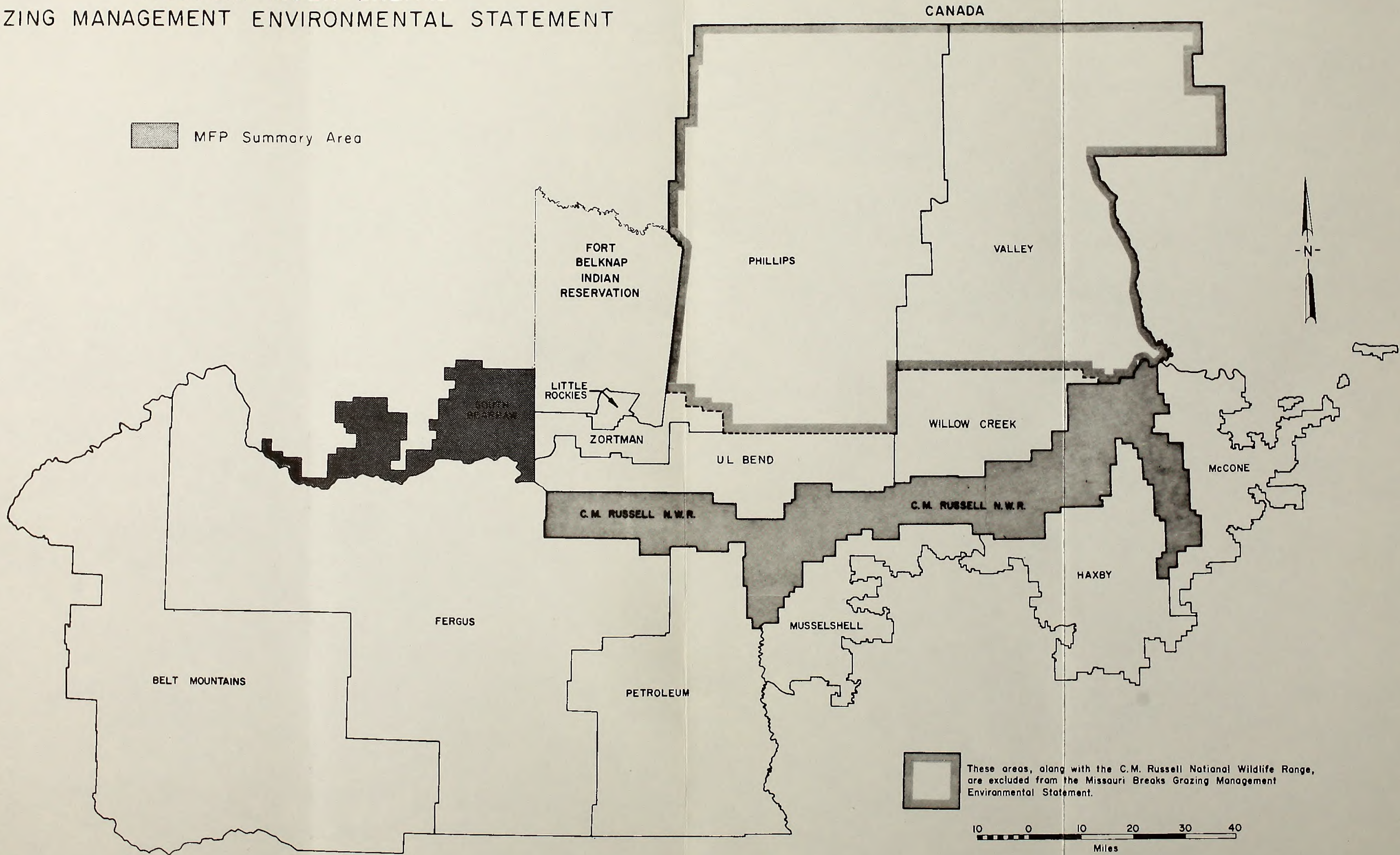
The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation borders the northeast portion of the planning unit. Proposed allotment management plans of public lands administered by BLM border the reservation. The MFP decisions, outlined in this brochure, do not include any Indian lands, although there will be indirect impacts or influences.


Currently, no comprehensive land use plans have been developed by the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. However, the reservation does have individual resource management programs for livestock grazing, recreation, and timber which will benefit indirectly by BLM management decision in the South Bearpaw. There do not appear to be any BLM land or resource allocations which would adversely affect the cultural values or lifestyle of the reservation (including the southern boundary of the planning unit).

A portion of the Missouri River has been designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. The corridor adjacent to the Missouri in the planning unit will be managed in accordance with the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Plan.

MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

 MFP Summary Area



 These areas, along with the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Range, are excluded from the Missouri Breaks Grazing Management Environmental Statement.

10 0 10 20 30 40
Miles

Actions After the MFP

The South Bearpaw Management Framework Plan will be followed by on-the-ground actions based on the plan's decisions. These actions will be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, except for those which are nondiscretionary due to other federal laws. Examples would be wilderness review and/or withdrawal and protection of federally-listed endangered or threatened species. Environmental assessments will be prepared for each action whether it is initiated by others or the BLM. In some cases, another federal agency may have primary responsibility for preparing an assessment but with BLM representatives participating. If the impacts of the proposed action are unacceptable or do not provide a reasonable social, environmental, and economic return, the proposed action may be modified or rejected.

The implementation of allotment management plans and issuance of BLM grazing licenses/permits will be the subject of the "Missouri River Breaks Grazing Environmental Statement." This statement will describe the impacts of land use decisions, including allotment management plans and the allocation of vegetative resources in ten planning units. This statement is currently scheduled for completion by August 1979 by the BLM Montana State Office, Branch of Environmental Coordination.

The on-the-ground actions initiated by BLM are also dependent upon necessary funding by Congress. Accordingly, it may be some time before some of these decisions are carried out. Implementation is also dependent upon completion of wilderness review as required in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Any major changes in this plan will be subject to public review and comment. It is anticipated that this plan will provide the basis for resource management to both the District and Resource Area staffs for approximately three years. A program of resource inventory will continue to monitor any changes which may lead to modification of resource use. Significant changes in federal, state, or public policy or attitudes may also require revision of this management framework plan.

Montana BLM Organization

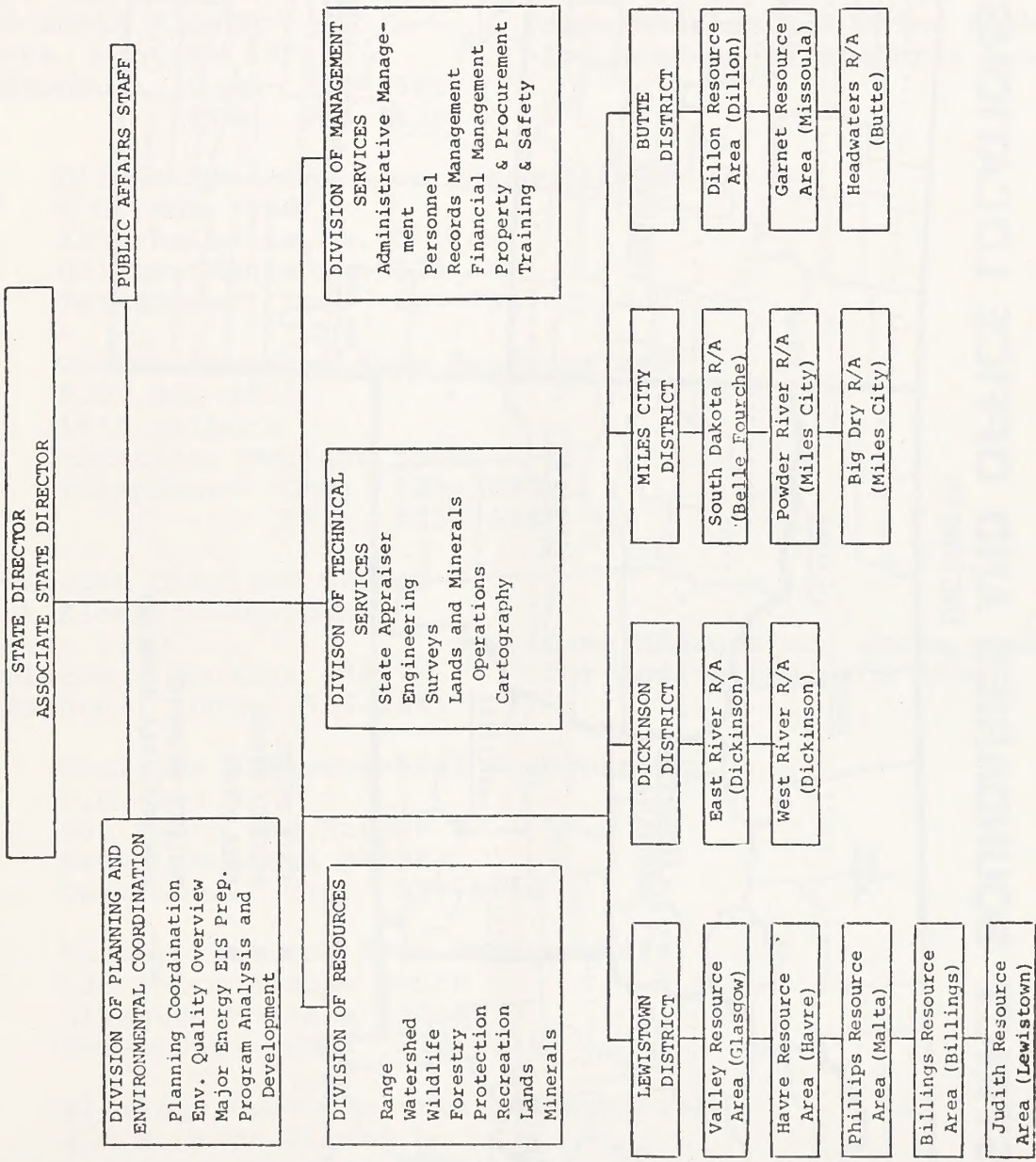
The Bureau's work in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota is administered from a State Office headquarters located in Billings, Montana. Within these three states, the 8.4 million surface acres and 55 million* subsurface acres of public lands are further divided administratively into four districts with District Offices in Butte, Lewistown, and Miles City; and Dickinson, North Dakota. Each District is divided into Resource Areas to facilitate day to day administration and long term management on a multiple use basis.

The surface and subsurface acreages administered by the four BLM Districts are noted in the table below:

Acreage Statistics
Montana BLM Organization

District	Surface Ownership		Subsurface Ownership		Total All Ownership
	BLM	Other	BLM	Other	
Butte	1,334,000	33,456,400	2,285,345	32,505,054	34,790,400
Lewistown	3,884,701	33,167,835	8,177,983	28,879,603	37,057,586
Miles City Montana	2,785,299	17,363,119	10,910,741	9,237,677	20,148,418
S. Dakota	276,000	48,335,200	800,000	47,811,200	48,611,200
Dickinson	68,000	44,266,720	4,968,000	39,366,720	44,334,720

*BLM directly administers approximately 28 million acres of mineral estate and is the leasing agent for an additional 27 million acres of land administered by other federal agencies.



ADDRESSES
Montana BLM Organization

Montana State Office
P.O. Box 30157
222 North 32 Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6561
FTS: 585-6561

Butte District Office
P.O. Box 308
220 North Alaska
Butte, Montana 59701
Telephone: Com: 723-6561
FTS: 585-2416

(Same address and phone number
for Headwaters Resource Area)

Dillon Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 1048
Ibey Building, N. Dillon
Dillon, Montana 59725
Telephone: Com: 683-2337

Garnet Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 4427
1819 Holborn
Missoula, Montana 59801
Telephone: Com: 329-3686
FTS: 585-3686

Lewistown District Office
Bank Electric Building
Drawer 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457
Telephone: Com: 538-7461

(Same address and phone number
for Judith Resource Area)

Phillips Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box B
501 South 2nd Street E
Malta, Montana 59538
Telephone: Com: 654-1240

Valley Resource Area Headquarters
626 Third Avenue South
Glasgow, Montana 59230
Telephone: Com: 228-4316

Billings Resource Area Headquarters
810 E. Main Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6262
FTS: 585-6262

Havre Resource Area Headquarters
Post Office Building
Drawer 911
Havre, Montana 59501
Telephone: Com: 265-5891

Miles City District Office
P.O. Box 940
West of Miles City
Miles City, Montana 59301
Telephone: Com: 232-4331

(Same address and phone number
for Powder River and Big Dry
Resource Areas)

South Dakota Resource Area Headquarters
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
Telephone: Com: 892-2526

Dickinson District Office
P.O. Box 1229
Pulver Hall
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
Telephone: Com: 225-9148

GLOSSARY

ACTIVITY PLAN. Detailed action plans for specific program activities. Examples include Allotment Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans, Recreation Site Development Plans, etc.

AESTHETICS. Dealing with the sense of the beautiful and with judgements concerning beauty.

ALLOTMENT (GRAZING ALLOTMENT). An area of land where one or more individuals graze their livestock. It generally consists of BLM lands but may include parcels of private or state owned lands. The number of livestock and season(s) of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH. A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the complete sustenance of one animal unit for a period of one month; also a unit of measurement of grazing privileges which represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for a period of one month.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. A term that includes resources of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance, which are fragile, limited, and nonrenewable portions of the human environment.

DEFERRED ROTATION GRAZING. The discontinuance of livestock grazing on various parts of a range in succeeding years,

allowing each part to rest successively during the growing season to permit seed production, establishment of seedlings, or restoration of plant vigor.

ECOLOGY. A study of animals and plants in their relation to each other and to their environment.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED STATUS. Determined for plants and animals by any one or a combination of the following factors: (1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) the adequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (5) other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD (EAR). A concisely written record of environmental factors in land management actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT (ES). A written analysis of the impacts of a proposed project (e.g., grazing program) on the environment.

EXCLOSURES. An area protected (usually by fences) against the entrance of unwanted animals.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA). Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM "Organic Act" which provides the majority of BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy and basic management guidance.

FORAGE ALLOCATION. The percent of average annual forage production allocated in the land use decision process to a given activity (i.e., domestic livestock wildlife, water protection and enhancement, wild and free-roaming horses and burros).

IMPACT. Negative or positive effects on social, economic, institutional, environmental and other resource values.

LAND USE DECISIONS. Resource allocations which resolve on-the-ground conflicts generated by attempting to fully implement all activities on the same general area of land. The decision reflects social, economic, environmental, political and interagency considerations.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP). A planning decision document which establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the Bureau's land use plan. It is prepared in three steps: Step 1 - Resource Recommendations; Step 2 - Impact Analysis and Alternative Development; and Step 3 - Decisionmaking.

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT. Coordinated management of the various surface and sub-surface resources, without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land, that will best meet the present and future needs of the people.

NON-DISCRETIONARY. Actions required by federal law, court or Executive Order, i.e., protection of designated, endangered, or threatened plants and animals, protection of designated historical or archaeological sites, etc.

PHENOLOGICAL. Relations between climate and periodic biologic phenomenon such as migrations and breedings of wildlife.

PLANNING UNIT. A geographic unit within a Bureau of Land Management district which includes related lands, resources, and use pressure problems which are considered together for resource inventory and planning.

RAPTORS. A functional group of birds including all birds of prey, such as the eagle, hawk, owl, and vulture.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION. See LAND USE DECISION

REST ROTATION GRAZING SYSTEM. A grazing system providing for systematic and sequential grazing by livestock and resting from livestock use on a range area to provide for the production of livestock while simultaneously maintaining or improving the vegetation and soil fertility.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream or other body of water.

SILVICULTURAL. Theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forests.

SUSTAINED YIELD. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

UPPER MISSOURI WILD AND SCENIC RIVER. Federal legislation designed to protect and preserve rivers of outstanding scenic, recreational, natural, and cultural value. This act includes a 149 square mile segment of the Upper Missouri between Ft. Benton and the Fred Robinson Bridge (US Highway 191).

WATERSHED. A basin or region draining into a creek, stream, river, river system, or body of water.

WITHDRAWAL. An action which withdraws described public lands from operation of certain laws which are also described in the withdrawal order.

Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

BORROWER

HD
243 Management framewor
.M9 planning area.
H38
1978

DATE LOANED	BORROWER

USDI - BLM

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

