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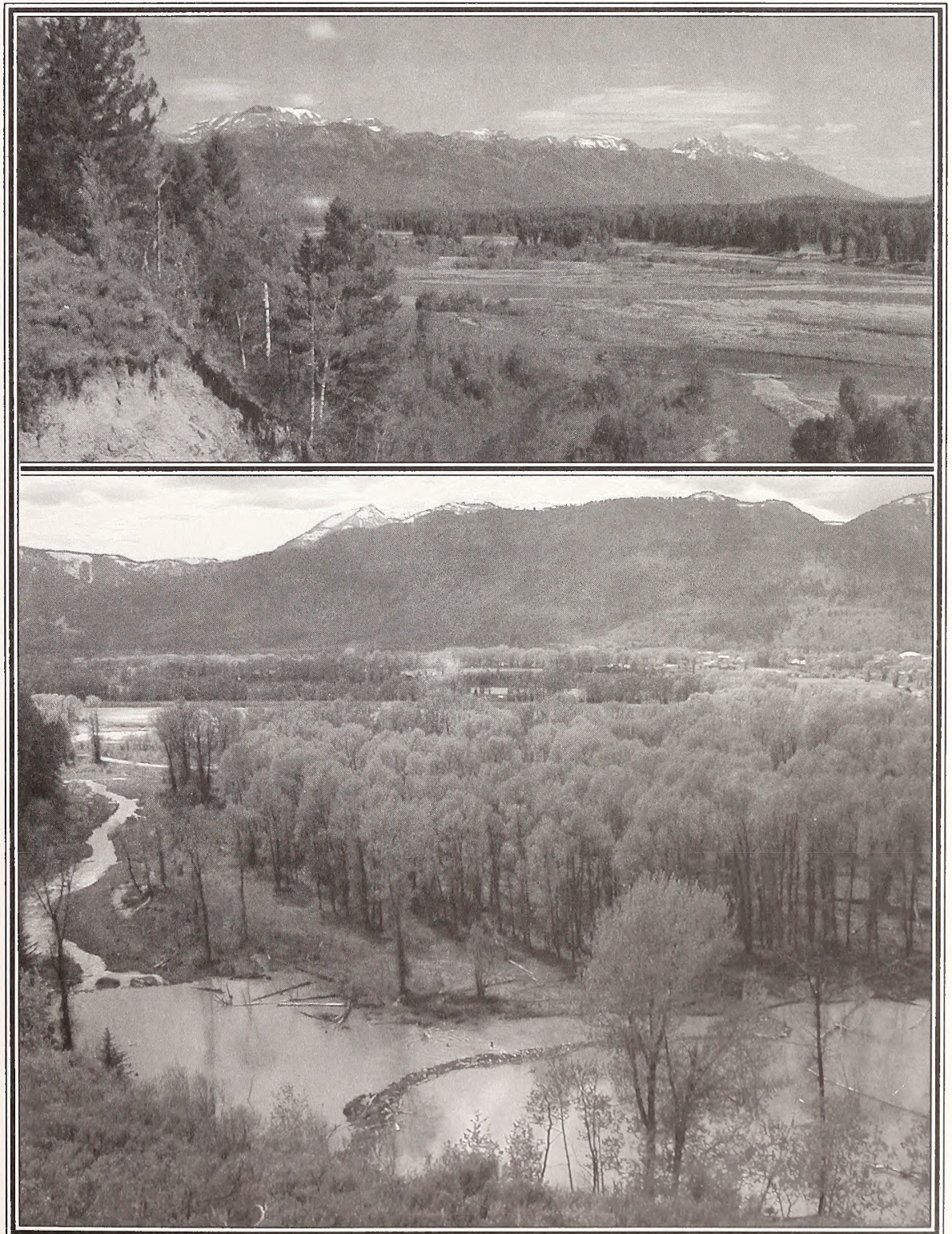
Wyoming State Office

Pinedale Field Office

January 2003

DRAFT

Environmental Impact Statement for the Snake River Resource Management Plan



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/WY/PL-03/007+1610



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

1610 (930)
Snake River RMP

JAN 21 2003

Dear Reader:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Snake River Resource Management Plan is submitted for your review and comment. The Snake River planning area includes approximately 1,073 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public land surface along the Snake River in Jackson Hole, Teton County, Wyoming, along with approximately 15,123 acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate underlying privately-owned surface lands in Jackson Hole.

This DEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of six alternative Resource Management Plans (RMP) that have been developed for the Snake River planning area. These alternatives were designed to address four land management issues that were identified during the planning process. The environmental consequences of the alternatives have also been analyzed.

Please review the document and direct any written comments to the Snake River RMP Team Leader, Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941. Comments may also be submitted electronically to pinedale_wymail@blm.gov (reference **Snake River RMP** in the subject field) or by Fax to 307-367-5329. All submissions must include legible full name and return address on the envelope, letter, postcard, or e-mail.

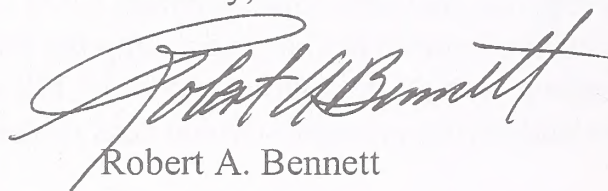
If you wish to comment on the DEIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies.

An open house will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, in Jackson, Wyoming, in the Teton County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 200 South Willow St., from 1 to 5 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to answer any questions you may have about the DEIS. The open house will be followed by a formal public hearing on the DEIS, in the same location, on the same date, from 5 to 8 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive formal public comments, verbal and written, on the DEIS.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations: Public comments submitted for this planning effort, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review in their entirety after the comment period closes at the Pinedale Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals or officials representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Through your participation in this effort, we may move forward together toward a common goal of improved public land management in the Snake River planning area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Robert A. Bennett
State Director

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SNAKE RIVER

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Pinedale Field Office
Pinedale, Wyoming**

January 2003

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CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PLANNING EFFORT

INTRODUCTION

This draft environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates alternative land use plans for the management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Jackson Hole area of the Pinedale Field Office (PFO). The Snake River planning area is located approximately 80 miles northwest of Pinedale, Wyoming. Each alternative analyzed in detail represents a complete and reasonable resource management plan (RMP) which could be used to guide the management of BLM-administered public lands and resources in the planning area. Each alternative also considers the land use plans of local and state governments and other Federal agencies in and around the Jackson Hole area to assure that the approved RMP will be compatible with them.

Original surveys of the Jackson Hole area conducted in the late 1800s ended at “meander lines” established near the then-banks of the very wide, braided channel of the Snake River. At some points, this channel was a mile or more wide. These “omitted lands” (omitted from the official U.S. survey) remained in public ownership as the Jackson Hole valley was settled. As levee construction proceeded in the 1950s, the lands began to be separated from the active channel of the Snake River. In the 1970s and 1980s, after long litigation, many of the “omitted” parcels were titled to the adjacent private landowners, resulting in the scattered nature of the parcels that remain in public ownership today (Map 1). See Appendix 4 and Maps 3-9 for descriptions of the individual public land parcels. For most of the parcels that did go into private ownership, recreation easements on the river channel were granted to the United States. Some of these easements include access to the riverbank levees. These easements do not actually enhance access to the river, but allow activities on the river that are generally not allowed on navigable waters crossing private lands in Wyoming. For instance, on the Snake River through the planning area, recreationists can anchor boats, wade, hike, picnic, and fish on the river as it crosses private lands.

Because ownership of the lands was still in litigation at the time BLM’s Pinedale Field Office RMP was completed in 1988, the lands were not included in that RMP. The Snake River RMP will be the first land use plan implemented for these public land parcels and mineral estate.

The process for the development, approval, maintenance, and amendment or revision of RMPs was initiated under the authority of Section 202(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and section 202(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The process is guided by BLM planning regulations in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1600 (43 CFR 1600) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations in 40 CFR 1500.

The first tier of the three-tiered BLM planning process consists of (1) compiling and reviewing the current laws, regulations, policies, Executive Orders, and directives pertaining to the planning area; and (2) development of any needed State Director’s guidance, specific to the planning effort

and the planning area. Development of the RMP represents the second of the three-tiered BLM planning process, the land use planning tier. As such, the approved RMP will prescribe the future resource and land use management for the BLM-administered public lands in the planning area. It is this process of planning for the management of the public land and resources, and allocating their uses, that guides activity planning and daily operations. Activity planning, the third tier of the BLM planning process, incorporates the resource and land use decisions of the RMP into the specific management guidance for administering the public lands in the planning area. During activity planning, the management prescriptions in the RMP are applied (1) to specific geographic areas in developing and implementing site-specific activity plans (e.g., recreation or river management plans); (2) in issuing various land and resource use authorizations; (3) in identifying mitigation needs; and (4) in developing and implementing other similar plans and actions.

After completion, the Snake River RMP will be kept current through maintenance actions, amendments, or revision as defined in 43 CFR 1610.5. Maintenance, amendment or revision of the RMP will be considered as demands on public lands and resources change, as the land and resource conditions change, or as new information is acquired.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose for developing the Snake River RMP is to provide a comprehensive and environmentally adequate framework for managing and allocating uses of BLM-administered public lands and resources, including mineral estate, in the Jackson Hole area. This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) documents the description of alternatives analyzed (current and alternative management plans) for the planning area and their consequences. The DEIS provides the basis for developing an RMP that resolves the resource and land use issues involved with current management and that provides direction for site-specific activity planning and implementation of management actions in the future. Until the Snake River RMP is completed, existing authorized practices and uses of the public lands and resources in the Jackson Hole area will continue, with most decisions on new actions or resource uses postponed until completion of the RMP.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The general planning area for the Snake River RMP is the Jackson Hole area, a portion of Teton County in northwestern Wyoming (Map 1). The planning area is bounded on the east, south, and west by the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary, and on the north by the Grand Teton National Park boundary.

As provided by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the BLM has the responsibility to plan for and manage the public lands. As defined by the Act, the *public lands* are those Federally owned lands, and any interest in lands (e.g., Federally owned mineral estate), that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior, specifically through the Bureau of Land Management. Within the Snake River RMP planning area, there are varied and intermingled land surface ownerships and overlapping mineral ownerships. Therefore, the administrative jurisdictions for land use planning and for managing the land surface and minerals also are varied, intermingled, and overlapping.

Because of this, the completed Snake River RMP will not include planning and management decisions for lands or minerals within the planning area that are privately owned or owned by the State of Wyoming, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or local governments. Table 1-1 summarizes

the land surface and mineral ownership and administrative relationships for the area (also see Map 2). In areas where the Federal land surface is administered by the USFWS, and the Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, the land surface planning and management decisions are the responsibility of the USFWS. Any BLM administrative responsibilities within these areas (for example, actions concerning the Federal mineral estate) are handled case by case and are guided by the policies, procedures, and plans of the USFWS.

The 23 surface parcels of public lands are also shown in a series of close-up maps (Maps 3-9).

**TABLE 1-1
LAND AND MINERAL OWNERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS
WITHIN THE SNAKE RIVER RMP PLANNING AREA**

Jurisdiction	Approximate Acres
Areas the Snake River RMP Decisions Will Cover:	
A. Federal surface/federal minerals ¹	1,073
B. Private surface/federal minerals ²	14,050
Total BLM-administered federal land surface to be covered by RMP decisions	1,073
Total BLM-administered federal mineral estate to be covered by RMP decisions	15,123
Areas the Snake River RMP Decisions Will NOT Cover:	
C. USFWS land/federal minerals ³	12,500
D. State land/nonfederal minerals ⁴	2,540
E. Private land/nonfederal minerals	42,120
F. USFWS/nonfederal minerals	13,360
Total BLM-administered federal mineral estate that will NOT be covered by RMP decisions	12,500
Total land surface areas in the Snake River RMP planning area (all ownerships)	85,643

¹ In areas where the Federal land surface and Federal mineral estate are both administered by the BLM, the RMP will include planning and management decisions for both the land surface and the mineral estate.

² In areas where the land surface is privately owned, and the minerals are Federally owned, the RMP will include planning and management decisions for only the BLM-administered Federal mineral estate. While the land and resource uses and values on the non-Federal surface will be taken into account and will affect development of the Federal mineral planning and management decisions, these decisions will not pertain to the privately owned land surface. At the same time, surface and minerals management actions and development activities anticipated in these areas will be taken into account for purposes of cumulative impact analysis in the Snake River RMP EIS.

³ In areas where the Federal land surface is administered by the USFWS, and the Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, the land surface planning and management decisions are the responsibility of the USFWS. Any BLM administrative responsibilities within these areas (for example, actions concerning the Federal mineral estate) are handled case by case and are guided by the policies, procedures, and plans of the USFWS. At the same time, surface and minerals management actions and development activities anticipated in these areas will be taken into account for purposes of cumulative impact analysis in the Snake River RMP EIS.

⁴ The Snake River RMP will not include any planning and management decisions for areas where the land surface and minerals are both privately owned, or owned by state, local, or other federal government agencies.

PLANNING ISSUES AND PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning Issues

The process for developing an RMP EIS begins with identifying the issues (40 CFR 1501.7; 43 CFR 1610.4-1). Issues express concerns, conflicts, and problems with the existing management of public lands. Frequently, issues are based on how land uses affect resources. Some issues are concerned with how land uses can affect other land uses, or how the protection of resources affects land uses.

Planning issues for the Snake River RMP have grown, in part, from lack of management of the parcels. Because ownership of the lands was still in litigation during the production of the Pinedale RMP, the parcels were excluded from that plan and have never been covered by a land use plan. In the absence of a land use plan, most management decisions for the parcels have been deferred until completion of the Snake River RMP. In particular, these include decisions on management of recreation use, mineral extraction, and land ownership (whether the BLM should retain or dispose of the parcels).

Issue 1: Cooperative Management

Public lands administered by the BLM along the Snake River are interspersed with private and state lands and bounded upstream and downstream by lands administered by the National Park Service, USDA-Forest Service, and Teton County. Some of the private and state lands are affected by recreational easements administered by the BLM. The Army Corps of Engineers and Teton County also have jurisdictional responsibilities including cooperative maintenance of levees for flood control. Several organizations are interested in cooperating with private landowners and government agencies for maintaining open space and public access. Because of these intermingled ownerships, agreements, and management interests, it is important that the Snake River RMP be coordinated with the plans of other managing agencies in and around Jackson Hole. Opportunities for cooperation include coordination by BLM, National Park Service, and USDA-Forest Service in addressing river floating, consideration of landownership adjustments, and leasing public lands for parks and pathways. Other benefits of cooperation could include sharing scientific information and preparing joint studies and recommendations on matters such as wild and scenic river potential.

Issue 2: Recreational Opportunities

Public lands along the Snake River are accessible, with no fees charged for recreation activities, and are used by the residents of Teton County and surrounding counties for high quality recreation. Activities include hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, boating, fishing, picnicking, and watching wildlife.

Recreational use is growing, with the result that some public lands are experiencing crowding and associated resource problems, such as increases in noxious weeds and other invasive species, and declines in the quality of the recreational experience. In addition, unregulated commercial float outfitting is occurring, leading to concerns about overcrowding, health, and safety of river users. Questions to be addressed in the Snake River RMP EIS involve how best to accommodate the demand for recreation on these public lands, while protecting important natural resources and recreational experiences.

Issue 3: Development of Construction Materials

Special attention is needed to address the mining of sand and gravel on public lands in the planning area. These materials are needed primarily to maintain levees along the Snake River for flood control, and for road construction around Jackson Hole. The availability of gravel is limited in Jackson Hole, and resources from federal mineral estate could help to supply a growing need in the area. Questions to be addressed in the Snake River RMP EIS include whether mining of sand and gravel is appropriate on public lands, and what conditions should be applied to protect recreational opportunities, watershed resources, and important wildlife habitat.

Issue 4: Land Ownership Adjustment

At issue is whether the public land parcels should be retained in public ownership. Because of the small size, irregular shape, and scattered nature of the parcels, and their distance from the BLM Pinedale Field Office, they are difficult and costly for the BLM to manage. In addition, the Pinedale Field Office has received many requests and expressions of interest from adjacent private landowners in purchasing the parcels. For these reasons, disposal of the parcels must be considered as an option. This decision is central to the future management of the lands. Questions to be addressed in the Snake River RMP EIS include whether the parcels should be retained in public ownership and what criteria should be used to determine whether parcels are suited for disposal.

Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are the conditions and guidelines or parameters for conducting the planning effort, for preparing the RMP EIS, and for developing the approved RMP. The planning criteria serve the following purposes:

1. To ensure that the planning effort is focused on the issues, follows and incorporates legal requirements, addresses management of all public land resources and land uses in the planning area, and that plan preparation is accomplished efficiently;
2. To identify the scope and parameters of the planning effort for the decision maker, the interdisciplinary planning team, and the public; and

3. To inform the public of what should and should not be expected from the completed RMP, including identification of any planning issues that are not ready for decision-making in the RMP and that will be addressed only through subsequent planning efforts. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by laws and regulations; guidance provided by the BLM Wyoming State Director; the results of consultation and coordination with the public and with other agencies and governmental entities, and Indian Tribes; analysis of information pertinent to the planning area; public input; and professional judgment of the Planning Team.

The planning criteria focus on the preparation of alternatives, the analysis of their effects, and the selection of a preferred alternative. Additional planning criteria may be developed as the process proceeds.

Criteria for Developing Alternatives

The following will be considered in one or more of the alternatives:

- Management of significant cultural, historic, and scenic resources.
- The protection and enhancement of riparian areas.
- The protection of habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and other important plants and animals.
- Identification of lands suitable for sand and gravel mining, motorized vehicle use, rights-of-way construction, and other activities that may result in surface disturbance.
- Identification of lands where rights-of-way construction and other surface-disturbing activities would be avoided.
- Livestock grazing practices that are compatible with other resource management objectives.
- Opportunities for enhancing recreation.
- Opportunities for adjusting land ownership to meet goals for resource management and public access (e.g., transfer land to other public or private ownership).
- Opportunities for maintaining open space.
- The protection and enhancement of natural resources and ecological processes.
- Management of recreational use and designation of special recreation management areas (SRMAs).

Criteria for Analyzing Environmental Consequences

The following potential environmental consequences will be addressed:

- The effects of opening or closing public lands to development.

- Effects of surface-disturbing activities on air and scenic quality, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, vegetation, watershed, and wildlife.
- Effects of recreational activity on cultural resources, recreational experiences, vegetation, watershed, and wildlife.
- Effects of landownership adjustments on recreational opportunities and open space.
- Economic impacts of land use restrictions.
- Effects on private land.

Criteria for Selecting the Preferred Alternative

The following considerations will guide selection of the preferred alternative:

- The level of land use restrictions needed to protect resources and keep lands and resources available for public use.
- The potential for the occurrence of mineral resources such as sand, gravel, oil and gas, and gold.
- Consistency with the land use plans, programs, and policies of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Native American tribes.
- The potential eligibility of public lands along the Snake and Gros Ventre rivers and their tributaries to be included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- The protection of habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and other important plants and animals.
- Efficiency of management of the parcels.
- Responsiveness to the planning issues.

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE BLM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION

The goal in formulating alternatives for a resource management plan environmental impact statement (RMP EIS) is to identify combinations of management practices for and uses of the public lands and resources that would resolve the planning issues. Each alternative is to represent a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary (or multiple use) land use plan to guide future management of the public lands and resources in the planning area. One alternative represents the continuation of existing management direction (no action alternative). The other alternatives provide a range of choices for solving problems associated with present management. Problems with present management are identified through scoping and issue identification for the planning process, and through impacts analysis.

Analysis of impacts that would be associated with the alternatives is required by BLM planning regulations and the NEPA-based Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. Comparison of the differences among the alternatives is also required. Based upon this comparative analysis, BLM managers are able to choose a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative selected may be one of the initial alternatives considered, it may be made up from portions of two or more of those alternatives, or it may be a completely different alternative.

This chapter presents six resource management plan alternatives, including BLM's preferred alternative for managing the public lands and resources in the Snake River planning area. Alternative A, the Continuation of Existing Management Direction or "No Action" Alternative, would continue current management practices based on compliance with federal laws, regulations, and BLM policy, as well as adherence to court decisions granting recreational access and addressing livestock grazing within the Snake River corridor. Alternative A would provide for the parcels to remain in public ownership for public purposes; the parcels could be retained by the BLM, or parcels could be transferred to other public agencies or entities for management as public open space, recreation facilities, or parks. Alternative A would allow recreational activity to continue, with no management or fee program for recreation. Generally, mineral development would be prohibited, although mining for mineral materials, such as sand and gravel, would be allowed case by case.

Compared to Alternative A, Alternative B would reduce the level of land use restrictions while providing for higher levels of mineral development and recreational use. Recreation would be emphasized through the development of primitive, boat-in campsites, the construction of a new boat and river access site, and the posting of interpretive and directional signs. Under Alternative B, BLM would retain most of the parcels, although some lands could be removed from public ownership and use via exchange, transfer or sale to meet other objectives or to consolidate lands.

Alternative C would be similar to Alternative A in its level of land use restrictions but would further constrain access by motorized vehicles. The protection of wildlife habitat and a more isolated recreational experience would be pursued through a reduced level of river floating. As in Alternative B, public education would be highlighted through the use of interpretive signs. Generally, Alternative C would provide for the retention and possible consolidation of public lands. In cases where lands might be removed from public ownership and use, they would be protected from development through the use of conservation easements. Alternative C would close all federal mineral estate in the planning area to mineral extraction.

Alternative D provides for disposal of all the public land parcels as a primary goal. The parcels would be disposed of within 15 years. The BLM would retain all mineral rights; minerals management would be similar to the Preferred Alternative. While some parcels could be transferred to local government or other entities for use as public parks or conservation areas, there is a probability that all the parcels could end up in private ownership. Under this alternative, no intensive management would be invested in the parcels prior to their disposal. The plan would not restrict or limit the disposal of the lands, unless required by law. Entities or individuals acquiring the parcels would be free to close, develop, sell, or otherwise manage them.

Alternative E would provide limited options for disposal or exchange of the public land parcels, similar to Alternatives B and C; most of the parcels would be retained in BLM ownership. Recreation would be managed through a fee permit system for commercial outfitters. Mineral extraction would be limited in favor of protecting wildlife habitats, watersheds, and the quality of the recreational experience. Livestock grazing would be maintained in areas where it is currently occurring, with elimination of fall grazing and the provision that grazing leases would be forfeited if the leaseholder's adjacent private lands were converted to a use other than grazing.

The BLM preferred alternative provides for transfer of the parcels to another public land-managing agency, or to private non-profit land preservation entities. The goal would be to transfer the lands within 15 years. BLM would retain all mineral rights, and minerals management would be similar to Alternative E. There would be no intensive management of recreation use by the BLM in the interim prior to parcel disposal. Another option is that the actual land surface could be retained by BLM, if partners could be found to take over management of public uses of the parcels. For impact analysis it is assumed that the entities acquiring these parcels or taking over management responsibility would be obligated under the terms of the transaction to apply management prescriptions to retain the lands, and maintain them for public access, recreation use, open space, and wildlife habitat. This alternative assumes that agencies or public entities could be found to accept ownership or management of all the parcels.

ALTERNATIVES AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS

The following alternatives and management options were considered as possible methods of resolving the planning issues and answering the planning questions, but were eliminated from detailed study because they were unreasonable or impractical due to technical, legal, or policy factors.

Disposal of Federal Mineral Estate

Disposal of the Federal mineral estate was considered as a logical management option as a facet of Alternative D. Regulations at 43 CFR 2720.0-2 provide a mechanism where mineral interests owned by the United States may be conveyed to an existing or future surface owner, in order to consolidate the surface and subsurface estates.

Disposal of the Federal mineral estate was eliminated from detailed analysis because these regulations only allow for such a disposal under two circumstances:

1. where there are no known mineral values underlying the private land, or
2. where the reservation of minerals underlying the private land interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development of the private land, and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than the mineral development.

The first provision does not apply because most or all of the Federal mineral estate has at least some known potential for gravel or other saleable minerals.

In order to qualify under the 2nd provision, an applicant must show what the development is or will be. Leaving the land in an undisturbed or scenic state does not meet the criteria for development. If the applicant can meet the development test, and further processing is warranted, an exploratory program may need to be conducted to determine the extent and value of the mineral deposits in the land.

The surface owner must bear the cost of determining whether mineral values exist on the property as well as the cost of an appraisal on the value of the mineral estate. This cost must be paid up front with no guarantee that the surface owner will eventually gain title to the mineral estate. Prior to gaining title, the surface owner must also pay the government fair market value for this mineral estate. This program has had very minimal success in Wyoming since its inception.

Firewood Harvest

Allowing firewood harvest was eliminated from detailed analysis because of the small size of the parcels, lack of road access, the age of many of the trees, and the need for standing dead trees as roosting, nesting, and foraging sites for avian species, particularly raptors. No public interest in harvesting firewood on the parcels has been expressed.

Use of Prescribed Fire

Use of prescribed fire was eliminated from detailed analysis because of the scattered nature and small size of the parcels, and the age of most of the cottonwood stands. Due to the decreased probability of postfire sprouting by older mature trees, prescribed fires in narrowleaf cottonwood stands are not recommended past the pole and early maturation stages. In addition, spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), a noxious species present on most or all of the public land parcels, will increase following fire (USDA 2002). Control of prescribed fires would be difficult due to the lack of natural firebreaks; fire control activities could cause erosion and siltation of the Snake River. Most of the BLM parcels are also very near private homes, barns, and meadows, making fire control extremely important; the expanded control measures required in these situations would be cost-prohibitive. While prescribed fire was used along the river by native

cultures, its use would be inappropriate today given the population, recreation use, and property values in the planning area. If vegetation treatment is needed in the future, mechanical or biological means would be used.

Desert Land Entry

The Desert Land Entry statute (43 CFR 2520.0-1) was enacted “to encourage and promote the reclamation, by irrigation, of the arid and semiarid public lands of the Western states through individual effort and private capital, it being assumed that settlement and occupation will naturally follow when the lands have been thus rendered more productive and habitable.” Allowing Desert Land Entry was eliminated from detailed analysis for this RMP because the Snake River public land parcels are not suitable as defined by the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 2520.

Use of Lethal Animal Control Measures

Use of lethal animal control measures (including M-44’s) was eliminated from detailed analysis because of the proximity of private homes and the level of public recreation on the parcels. Using traps or poison devices to control predators or other animal species carries too many risks in this environment. No requests to use these devices to control animals have been received.

Establishment of Wilderness Study Areas

Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the BLM to inventory public lands for wilderness qualities and recommend to the President those lands suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). BLM handbook H-6310-1 Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures provides the BLM policy, direction, general procedures, and guidance for making wilderness considerations as part of management plan development.

The federal lands within this planning unit were not found to possess the qualities of wilderness as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The lands considered here are of insufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Additionally, within the planning unit there are no adjacent, contiguous federal lands managed within the NWPS.

Maximum, Unconstrained Alternatives

Alternatives and general management options that proposed maximum development, production, or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources were not analyzed in detail. The purpose of the approved RMP is to provide multiple use management direction for the planning area. Generally, promoting a single land and resource use by eliminating all others does not meet the objectives of the BLM multiple use management mandate and responsibilities. However, the alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

Introduction/Overview

The six alternatives addressed in the Draft RMP EIS are detailed in Table 2-1. A complete resource management alternative can be read in each column of the table, from top to bottom. Resources and resource uses are listed in alphabetical order. For each resource, management objectives are listed first, followed by management actions that would be taken or allowed to meet these objectives. Actions that would be the same under all alternatives are listed at the beginning of the table; actions that would differ between the alternatives are listed beginning on page 17. The alternatives may be compared in this table format. Expected environmental consequences of the alternatives are detailed and compared in Table 4-2 in Chapter 4.

It should be noted that for many resources, actions are listed in the Preferred Alternative that would only apply for as long as BLM owns and is actively managing the lands, in the interim period before they are transferred to other public entities or management of resources and programs is transferred. An acquiring agency or entity would have more freedom in managing the lands and resources, as long as the basic requirements of public access, open space, and wildlife habitat are met.

The Standards for Healthy Rangelands (Appendix 1) would apply to all land uses, so long as the parcels are retained by BLM.

**TABLE 2-1
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

Land Use or Resource	ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain or enhance air quality, protect public health and safety and sensitive resources, and minimize emissions that cause acid rain or degraded visibility.</p> <p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized actions on public lands would avoid violation of Wyoming and national air quality standards. This would be accomplished through the coordination of activities with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).</p> <p>Cooperation with EPA on monitoring concentrations and dry deposition at the 3 CASTNet stations in Wyoming would continue.</p> <p>Air quality standards and guidelines would be developed as needed in coordination with the Wyoming DEQ and the EPA.</p>
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Site-specific inventories for cultural resources would be required before the start of surface-disturbing activities, or if BLM-administered lands are proposed to be transferred out of federal ownership. Adverse effects on significant cultural resources would be mitigated, or the resources themselves would be avoided.</p> <p>Sites listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be managed for their local and national significance and in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the American Indians Religious Freedom Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as appropriate.</p> <p>Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office would be consistent with the National Cultural Programmatic Agreement (1994) and the State Protocol Agreement between the Wyoming BLM State Director and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (1998).</p> <p>If sites considered sacred, sensitive, or respected by Native Americans, or if traditional cultural properties (TCP) are identified, they would be managed in consultation with affected Native American representatives.</p>
FIRE MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Protect life, property, and resource values from wildfire.</p> <p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Fire suppression would be coordinated through a protection agreement with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and an annual operating plan with Teton County.</p> <p>Firefighting would emphasize minimum-impact suppression techniques unless public safety would be jeopardized. For example, the construction of fire lines would be avoided if natural fire breaks can be used.</p> <p>The use of aerial fire suppression agents, surfactants, and foaming agents is approved for emergency fire suppression activities.</p> <p>Fuels management and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation activities could take place.</p>
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Protect public health and safety and the environment on public lands, emphasize waste reduction for authorized actions, comply with applicable federal and state laws, prevent waste contamination from any authorized actions, minimize federal exposure to the liabilities associated with waste management on public lands, and integrate hazardous materials and waste management policies and controls into all management programs.</p>

**TABLE 2-1
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES	
Land Use or Resource	
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: For authorized activities that involve hazardous materials or their use, precautions would be taken to guard against releases into the environment. In the event of a release of hazardous materials on the public land, appropriate warnings would be provided to potentially affected communities and individuals, and precautions would be taken against public exposure to contaminated areas.</p> <p>Sale, exchange, or other transfer of public lands on which storage or disposal of hazardous substances has been known to occur would require public notification of the type and quantity of the substances.</p> <p>Public lands contaminated with hazardous wastes would be reported, secured, and cleaned up according to federal and state laws, regulations, and contingency plans, including the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Parties responsible for contamination would be liable for cleanup and resource damage costs, as prescribed by law.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of hazardous materials and waste management on public land parcels would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.</p>
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT	<p>Parcel 27 would be transferred to Teton County.</p>
<i>Landownership Adjustments</i>	<p>Public lands within the Snake River corridor would be identified as unsuitable for agricultural development and would be closed to desert land entry and agricultural lease.</p>
<i>Rights-of-Way</i>	<p>New, amended, or renewed surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of right-of-way maintenance and/or development would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The location of communication sites on public lands would be prohibited.</p>
<i>Withdrawals</i>	<p>Approximately 2,890 acres of public lands and mineral estate described in PLO 7143 (June 1, 1995) would remain closed to mineral or surface entry until June 1, 2005. (As described in the PLO, "mineral or surface entry" pertains to activities such as the staking and development of mining claims for locatable minerals and desert land entry, but does not apply to the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands, or mineral leasing, or the extraction of sand and gravel through sales and permits). (Map 10)</p> <p>Areas with rare or sensitive resources may be proposed for withdrawal from mineral and/or surface entry on a case-by-case basis.</p>
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of range project construction and maintenance on public land parcels would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.</p>
MINERALS MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Public lands and federal mineral estate throughout the planning area would be closed to geothermal leasing consideration.</p>
<i>Geothermal</i>	
<i>Oil and Gas</i>	<p>Public lands and federal mineral estate in the Snake and Gros Ventre River corridors (within 1/2 mile of either River) (comprising about 3535 acres) would be closed to leasing consideration for oil and gas. (Map 11)</p>

**TABLE 2-1
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

Land Use or Resource	ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES
<i>Locatable Minerals</i>	The public lands and mineral estate described in Public Land Order (PLO) 7143 (June 1, 1995; see Appendix 7) would remain closed to mineral entry and the staking and development of mining claims until June 1, 2005. (Map 10)
PALAEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The collection of vertebrate fossils on public lands would generally be prohibited. Only qualified institutions, individuals, or consultants who obtain a permit would be allowed to collect these fossils. Collecting common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood for hobby purposes would be allowed on public lands.
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Evaluation and designation of critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant species on public lands would be coordinated with the USFWS. If proposed surface-disturbing activities could affect these species, the USFWS would be consulted as required by the Endangered Species Act.
	Inventories for threatened, endangered, or BLM-Wyoming sensitive plant species would be required before surface-disturbing activities are conducted on public lands in areas with potential habitat for these species.
	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of vegetation management on public land parcels would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.
<i>Noxious weeds and other invasive species</i>	Noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation on public lands in the Jackson Hole Weed Management Area would be controlled in accordance with the Jackson Hole Weed Management Plan and applicable BLM regulations and policy.
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	Noxious weed treatments on public lands would avoid bird nesting seasons and other times when loss of cover or disturbance by equipment would be detrimental to wildlife. Projects that may affect threatened or endangered animals or plants, or BLM-Wyoming sensitive species, would be postponed or modified to protect these species. As necessary, the USFWS would be consulted.
	Visual resources would be considered before authorizing land uses that may affect them.
	Facilities or structures, such as power lines and storage tanks, would be screened, painted, buried, and otherwise designed to blend with the surrounding landscape.
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Maintain or improve water quality and comply with Wyoming DEQ water quality standards. Reduce erosion by improving vegetative production and ground cover. Maintain or improve wetland and riparian habitat.
	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The protection of watershed resources would be considered in the analysis of project proposals. Wyoming DEQ and Wyoming BLM Best Management Practices would be applied.
	Applications for water rights for water-related projects on public lands would be filed with the Wyoming State Engineer's office.
	To reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution, pollution prevention plans for developments would be required under the "Wyoming Storm Water Discharge Program."
	Point sources of pollution would be subject to appropriate regulations and cleanup measures.
	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with watershed management on public land parcels would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

**TABLE 2-1
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES	
Land Use or Resource	
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with wildlife and fish management would be subject to appropriate mitigation as developed through the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.
<i>General</i>	Public lands in the Snake River corridor would be identified as public safety zones where the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices, leg-hold traps, and kill-type traps are prohibited. Evaluation of other types of animal control methods undertaken to resolve human-wildlife conflicts would be conducted by and coordinated with USDA, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services.
<i>Wildlife Habitat</i>	Raptor nest sites and roosts, cottonwood trees, riparian areas, and other habitats related to raptor foraging and concentration areas would be protected by restricting surface-disturbing activities on public lands near these habitat areas.
	Fence construction on public lands would require site-specific analyses. Fence construction and modification would conform to applicable standards.
	The "reasonable and prudent measures" identified by the USFWS in its Biological Opinion for Threatened and Endangered Species would be endorsed. The USFWS would be consulted as required or as necessary in accordance with the ESA.
<i>Threatened and Endangered Species</i>	If proposed surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may affect threatened or endangered species, the USFWS would be consulted as required by the ESA. The evaluation and designation of critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species on public lands would be coordinated with the USFWS.
<i>Sensitive Species</i>	If proposed surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may affect BLM-Wyoming designated sensitive species or their habitat, the appropriate mitigation would be applied to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Mitigation would be consistent with the accepted management objectives and best practices for managing those species, when known.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Protect and preserve important cultural, natural history, and paleontological resources.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Protect and preserve important cultural and natural history resources. Highlight opportunities for public education.
	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: BLM would not pursue Rural Historic Landscape status.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The public lands in the Snake River corridor would be evaluated to determine their potential for designation as a Rural Historic Landscape.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative C.
	BLM would not develop interpretive facilities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Interpretive facilities could be developed to highlight historic cultural resources such as old cabin locations, placer mining areas, historic levee constructions, and the remains of dams and bridges.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Continued)	The potential adverse effect created by transfer or sale of a National Register-eligible historic property to a state or county governing body or a privately administered land trust would need to be mitigated. Mitigation might include no sale or transfer of the historic property, formal data recovery, or by placing protective covenants on the patent.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The sale of lands containing National Register-eligible cultural resources is defined as an adverse effect under regulations at 36 CFR 800. Any cultural resources located on lands sold would either not be transferred or sold, or the adverse effect created by the sale or transfer would be subject to the appropriate mitigating treatments.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain existing public access to the parcels. Provide for continuing public access and use of the parcels. Actual ownership and/or management of the parcels would be by other public agencies or entities.	Maintain existing public access to the parcels. Provide for continuing public access and use of the parcels.	Maintain or improve access for recreation and mining and respond to requests for land use authorizations, land sales, and exchanges.	With an emphasis on protection of wildlife habitat and natural conditions, maintain access for recreation and respond to requests for land use authorizations, land sales, and exchanges.	Respond to requests for land sales and exchanges. All the parcels would be transferred or sold.	Maintain access for recreation and respond to requests for land use authorizations, land sales, and exchanges, with emphasis on protection of wildlife habitat and natural conditions.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued)	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Public access to the parcels would be maintained as a condition of their transfer to other agencies.	In general, opportunities for public access would be maintained. However, access to specific areas may be closed or restricted to protect public health and safety and sensitive resources (e.g., bald eagles).	Same as Alternative A.	In general, opportunities for public access (primarily nonmotorized) would be maintained. However, access to specific areas may be closed or restricted to protect public health and safety and sensitive resources (e.g., bald eagles).	Existing access would be maintained pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Alternative C.
<i>Access</i>	Information and directional signs would be posted on public lands, by the acquiring agency or entity, as appropriate. The Wilson Bridge boat and river access site would be maintained. BLM would not pursue an access easement to the ramp.	No similar action.	Information and directional signs would be posted to identify public lands.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The Wilson Bridge boat and river access site would be maintained. BLM would not pursue an access easement to the ramp.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Public access would be maintained at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site. BLM would pursue an access easement to the ramp. Opportunities to enhance public access in other areas would be pursued.	The Wilson Bridge boat and river access site would be maintained. BLM would pursue an access easement to the ramp.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative C.
	A boat and river access site could be developed near the South Park Bridge by an agency or entity other than BLM.	A boat and river access site could be developed near the South Park Bridge.	Same as Alternative A.	No boat ramp would be developed on public land at South Park.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Landownerships Adjustments</i>	Ownership of the parcels would be transferred from BLM. Parcels could be disposed of through transfer or sale to other agencies or public entities to remain available for public use. If BLM is unable to transfer the lands, management agreements would be pursued to allow other agencies or entities to manage public uses on the parcels.	Public lands in the planning area would be retained in public ownership. In some cases, this could include the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands to meet the needs of the local community for parks and pathways, or for other public purposes, with a contingency for public use to be retained (see Appendix 5).	Proposals for the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands would be considered case by case. Emphasis would be placed on acquiring public access for recreation (see Appendix 5).	In general, the parcels would be retained in public ownership. Proposals for the sale, exchange, or transfer (through recreation and public purposes (R&PP) lease or other authorizations) of public lands would be considered case by case (see Appendix 5).	Ownership of the parcels would be transferred from BLM. Parcels could be disposed of through transfer to other agencies, exchange for other lands outside the Jackson Hole area, or private sale.	Same as Alternative C.
	Management responsibility for some uses of the parcels would be transferred to other agencies; the parcels themselves may be retained by BLM or transferred to other public agencies or entities to remain open for public use.	BLM would retain management responsibility for all uses of the parcels that remain in BLM ownership.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Management responsibility for the parcels would be transferred with parcel disposition.	BLM would pursue cooperative management agreements for some public land uses with other county, state, and federal agencies.
	Access easements would not be retained by BLM. Public access would be provided for in the terms of parcel transfer or sale.	Access easements would not be necessary as parcels would only be disposed for public use.	Access easements to the river channel and the levees may be retained on lands exchanged or sold out of BLM ownership.	Access easements to the river channel and the levees would be retained on lands exchanged or sold out of BLM ownership.	No easements to the parcels would be retained.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Landownerships Adjustments (Continued)</i>	BLM would not acquire recreation easements.	No similar action.	Recreation easements may be acquired through the exchange or sale of public lands.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative B.
	Any sale, exchange, or transfer of public land would include, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Situations involving trespass on public land would be resolved by removing the unauthorized use, so the lands can be transferred unencumbered to other agencies or entities.	Situations involving trespass on public land would be resolved by removing the unauthorized use, by establishing an annual rental of the affected public land, or by land sales or exchanges.	Situations involving trespass on public land would be resolved by removing the unauthorized use, or by land exchanges in some cases.	Situations involving trespass on public land would be resolved by removing the unauthorized use.	Same as Alternative A.	Situations involving trespass on public land would be resolved by removing the unauthorized use, or by establishing an annual rental of the affected public land, at the discretion of the authorized officer.
	The area would not be designated a Special Project Area for the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The Snake River corridor would be designated a Special Project Area to allow the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire recreation and conservation easements.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued) Rights-of-Way	Rights-of-way proposals would be addressed case by case, with emphasis on avoiding conflict or sensitive areas. The location of rights-of-way to cross the Snake River on public land would only be allowed at Wilson Bridge and South Park Bridge.	Public lands in the planning area would be open to future rights-of-way development. Proposals would be addressed case by case with emphasis on avoiding certain conflict or sensitive areas. The location of rights-of-way to cross the Snake River would only be allowed on public land at Wilson Bridge and South Park Bridge.	Public lands in the planning area would be open to future rights-of-way development. Proposals would be addressed case by case with emphasis on providing access for mineral development and recreation.	Some public lands in the planning area would be open to future rights-of-way development. Proposals would be addressed case by case with emphasis on avoiding certain conflict or sensitive areas. The location of new rights-of-way to cross the Snake River would be prohibited on public land.	Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The following would be right-of-way exclusion areas: raptor nesting and concentration areas; threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species habitat; BLM Wyoming sensitive species habitat when the species is documented to occur at that location; Endangered Species Act (ESA)-designated critical habitat.	No similar action.	No similar action.	The following would be right-of-way exclusion areas: big game crucial winter habitat; raptor nesting and concentration areas; threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species habitat; aquatic and wetland sites; Wyoming BLM sensitive species habitat; important cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register (Map 12).	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
<p>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued)</p> <p><i>Rights-of-Way (Continued)</i></p>	<p>The following would be right-of-way avoidance areas: big game crucial winter habitat; aquatic & wetland sites; Wyoming BLM sensitive species habitat; important cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register; and scenic areas identified as VRM Class II areas (Map 13).</p>	<p>The following would be right-of-way avoidance areas: big game crucial winter habitat; raptor nesting and concentration areas; threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species habitat; aquatic and wetland sites; Wyoming BLM sensitive species habitat; important cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register; and scenic areas identified as visual resource management (VRM) Class II areas (Map 13).</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
<p><i>Withdrawals</i></p>	<p>A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.</p>	<p>A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued to go into effect on June 1, 2005, for the public lands and mineral estate covered by the withdrawal area described in PLO 7143 (2,890 acres) (Map 10).</p>	<p>The public lands and mineral estate described in PLO 7143 (2,890 acres) (Map 10) would be opened to mineral and/or surface entry after the current withdrawal expires in 2005.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Withdrawals (Continued)</i>	A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.	12,233 acres of public mineral estate outside the area described in PLO 7143 (Map 10) are and would remain open to mineral/surface entry.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain or improve ecological conditions for the benefit of livestock use, wildlife habitat, watershed values, and riparian areas. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use would continue to be authorized as long as the parcels are held by BLM, unless monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or an environmental assessment indicates a change in grazing use is appropriate.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Maintain or improve ecological conditions for the benefit of wildlife habitat, watershed values, and riparian areas.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use would continue to be authorized unless monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or an environmental assessment indicates a change in grazing use is appropriate, or public lands are sold, exchanged, or transferred.	Same as Alternative A.	The parcels would be closed to livestock grazing. All current grazing leases and authorizations would be cancelled.	The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use would continue to be authorized, pending the ultimate disposal of the parcels.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Existing grazing allotments would be categorized as follows: Walton, I (parcel 9-10); Porter Estate, I (parcel 21); Snake River Ranch, M (parcel 23). Adjustments in the levels of livestock grazing would be made as a result of monitoring and after consultation or negotiation with grazing permittees and other affected interests (including local and state governmental entities, as appropriate).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	If the lessee's adjacent property for any existing grazing lease were converted to other uses to the extent that livestock grazing is substantially excluded, then that grazing lease would expire, and would not be available to other applicants. This provision could ultimately affect 300 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock grazing use on about 544 acres. (Map 14)	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No adjustments in livestock grazing would be necessary, as no grazing would be allowed.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending parcel sale.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation	
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES							
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Continued)	No fall grazing would be permitted on parcels administered by BLM. The grazing season would end on August 31 annually.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	
	Fence construction on BLM parcels would require site-specific analyses. Fence construction and modification would conform to applicable fencing standards.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Relocation of fences to ownership boundaries, and marking of public lands contained therein, would be considered case by case to meet management objectives.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
The implementation of management actions on the public lands, such as the use of grazing systems, land treatments, and range improvements, would be consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. (See Appendix 1)	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Continued)	All parcels not currently leased for livestock grazing would be closed to future applications.	Applications to graze on public lands would be addressed case by case.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Priority would be given to the modification of fences that are restricting wildlife movement in crucial big game habitat areas and along migration routes.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
MINERALS MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Provide reduced opportunities for mineral exploration and development while emphasizing protection of other resource values.	Maintain opportunities for mineral exploration and development while maintaining other resource values.	Provide increased opportunities for mineral exploration and development while maintaining other resource values to the extent possible.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with mineral exploration and development would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action required as no mineral activities would be allowed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>General</i>						

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Oil and Gas</i>	Federal mineral estate outside the Snake and Gros Ventre River corridors (more than ½ mile from either River) would be closed to leasing consideration for oil and gas. (See page [redacted] for the decision regarding oil and gas leasing within ½ mile of the Rivers.)	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Federal mineral estate outside the Snake and Gros Ventre River corridors (more than ½ mile from either River) would be open to leasing consideration for oil and gas, with appropriate mitigation requirements determined case by case. (Map 11)	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Other Leasable Minerals</i>	Public lands and federal mineral estate (15,123 acres) would be closed to leasing consideration for phosphate, sodium, coal and all other leasable minerals.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Public lands and federal mineral estate (15,123 acres) would be open to leasing consideration for phosphate, sodium, coal, and all other leasable minerals. (Map 2)	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Locatable Minerals</i>	A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.	A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued to go into effect on June 1, 2005, for the public lands and mineral estate covered by the withdrawal area described in PLO 7143 (2,890 acres) (Map 10).	The public lands and mineral estate described in the PLO (2,890 acres) would be opened to mineral entry after the withdrawal expires in 2005. At that time, the staking and development of mining claims would be allowed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Locatable Minerals (Continued)</i>	<p>A long-term protective withdrawal would be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.</p> <p>No similar action because all public lands and federal mineral estate would be closed to locatable mineral exploration and development.</p>	<p>12,233 acres of public mineral estate outside the area described in PLO 7143 (Map 10) are and would remain open to mineral/surface entry.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
<i>Salable Minerals</i>	<p>The extraction of sand and gravel would be considered, case by case, on public lands and federal mineral estate only in the active, unvegetated channel within the levees.</p> <p>The mining of sand and gravel, and associated access across public lands for this purpose, would be subject to seasonal requirements to protect fish spawning, important wildlife habitat areas, and periods of high recreational use.</p>	<p>Plans of operations or notices of intent would be required for locatable minerals exploration and development consistent with regulations (43 CFR 3809).</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>The extraction of sand and gravel would be considered, case-by-case, on public lands and federal mineral estate throughout the planning area.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>The extraction of sand and gravel would be prohibited on public lands and federal mineral estate throughout the planning area.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Existing access would be continued across public lands near the Wilson and South Park bridges for mining of salable minerals on adjacent privately owned lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Salable Minerals (Continued)						
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Minimize motorized vehicle use. Maintain existing opportunities for non-motorized vehicle use.	Maintain opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use while avoiding adverse effects on other resource values.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Use of motorized vehicles on public lands in the planning area would be limited to the following designated roads: the Munger Mountain road; levee road at the Walton parcel; levee road west of the Snake River and south of Wilson Bridge; the access road to the Wilson boat ramp; the Evans Gravel road; and the Fall Creek road. (See Table 2-2.) Other roads may be designated as needed on a case-by-case basis. (Map 15)	Public lands in the planning area are currently not designated for motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use, although they are sometimes limited seasonally where needed to protect wildlife habitat or for administrative purposes.	Public lands in the planning area would be identified as limited to existing roads and trails for motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE MANAGEMENT (Continued)	<p>Nonmotorized vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails and limited seasonally where needed to protect wildlife habitat or for authorized use.</p> <p>OHV use limitations would be determined by the acquiring agency or entity.</p>	<p>Nonmotorized vehicle use would not be regulated, except seasonally where needed to protect wildlife habitat or for administrative purposes.</p> <p>No similar action necessary, as the parcels would be open to vehicle travel, except as currently closed for administrative purposes.</p>	<p>Nonmotorized vehicle use would be limited to existing roads and trails.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Vehicle use for levee maintenance and permitted uses for vehicles may be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
PALEONTOLOGY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	<p>OHV use limitations would be determined by the acquiring agency or entity.</p> <p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Protect and preserve important paleontological resources.</p>	<p>Over-the-snow motorized vehicle use would not be regulated, except where needed to protect wildlife habitat or for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Over-the-snow motorized vehicles would be subject to the same requirements and limitations as all other motorized vehicles. An exception could be allowed for grooming cross-country ski trails that are otherwise closed to motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Over-the-snow motorized vehicles would be subject to the same requirements and limitations as all other motorized vehicles. An exception could be allowed for grooming cross-country ski trails that are otherwise closed to motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Protect and preserve important paleontological resources. Highlight opportunities for public education.</p>	<p>Over-the-snow motorized vehicles would be prohibited on public lands in the planning area.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
RECREATION MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Increase opportunities for quality recreation use and provide improved visitor services while protecting other sensitive resources. Provide for responsible commercial recreation use for the protection of visitor and public health and safety and natural resources, and manage visitor use.</p> <p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: No Special Recreation Management Area would be designated.</p>	Provide opportunities for recreation use while providing minimal visitor services.	Increase opportunities for recreation use and provide improved visitor services.	Reduce opportunities for recreation use in favor of other resource values.	Maintain opportunities for recreation use pending the ultimate disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		Same as Preferred Alternative.	Public lands along the Snake and Gros Ventre rivers would be designated a Special Recreation Management Area to facilitate management of recreational activities such as floating, fishing, hiking, winter sports, and commercial, competitive and group activities.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Continued)	No RAMP would be prepared by BLM. Other agencies or entities would manage recreation use.	No RAMP would be prepared. No use limits or standards would be put in place.	A Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) would be prepared. The RAMP would provide for the management of public recreation use and the provision of services needed to maintain public health and safety, while protecting natural resources. The RAMP would direct the types and level of recreation use, services, facilities development, and public information.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
	Public access would be maintained at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site for river floating.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Access could be lost if the parcel is sold to a private party.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	A boat and river access site could be developed near the South Park Bridge by an agency or entity other than BLM.	Boat and river access could be developed near the South Park Bridge.	Same as Alternative A.	No boat ramp would be developed on public lands at South Park Bridge.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative A.
	Additional river boating access could be developed by an agency or entity other than BLM.	No new river boating access would be developed other than at South Park Bridge.	Additional river boating access could be developed.	No other boating access facilities would be developed on public lands.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Continued)	BLM would not pursue rights-of-way for public recreation access.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Rights-of-way for public recreation access would be pursued if necessary.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.
	The acquiring or managing agency or entity would determine the requirements for facility development.	There would be no requirement to maintain or develop recreation sites and facilities consistent with the protection of riparian habitat.	Recreation sites and facilities on public lands would be maintained or developed consistent with the protection of riparian habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
	Decisions on signing would be made by the acquiring or managing agency or entity.	No signs would be posted on the public land parcels.	Information and directional signs would be posted to identify public lands.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Information and directional signs would be posted on public lands and recreation easements as appropriate.
	Decisions on user access fees would be made by the acquiring or managing agency or entity.	There would be no access fee program.	A required public access fee program would be established.	A voluntary access fee program would be established.	Same as Alternative A.	A user access fee system would be established consistent with other management agencies on the Snake River.
	Development of campgrounds could be considered by an agency or entity other than BLM.	The parcels would remain closed to camping.	Development of campgrounds could be considered.	Same as Alternative A.	The parcels would remain closed to camping pending their disposal.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Other agencies or public entities could choose to develop interpretive facilities after acquiring parcel(s) or management responsibility for parcel(s).	No similar action.	Interpretive facilities could be developed to highlight historic cultural resources such as old cabin locations, historic levee constructions, and the remains of bridges. Interpretive facilities could be developed to highlight scenic landforms, river processes, wildlife, geologic history, and noxious weed control.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.	The RAMP would direct the level of interpretation, facilities development, and public information.
	In the interim prior to parcel transfer, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with the construction and use of roads and recreational facilities would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with the construction and use of roads and recreational facilities would be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal. These restrictions would not apply after parcel disposal.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain or improve the diversity of plant communities to support wildlife habitat, watershed protection, scenic resources, and livestock grazing; control existing noxious weed infestations and prevent their spread.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Maintain or improve the diversity of plant communities to support wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and scenic resources; control existing noxious weed infestations and prevent their spread.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Noxious weeds and other invasive species</i>	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Control of noxious weeds and other invasive species may include manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical methods. If herbicides are proposed for use, those with minimum toxicity to wildlife and fish would be selected. All herbicides applied must be on the BLM-approved list and applied in accordance with EPA label requirements. Interpretive signs could be placed at selected public access areas with information on the spread and control of noxious weeds and other invasive species.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Control of noxious weeds and other invasive species may include manual or biological methods. Chemical and mechanical control would be prohibited.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	<p>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain or improve scenic values throughout the planning area, while allowing for modification and changes to occur to meet other resource objectives.</p> <p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: In the interim prior to disposal, public lands would be managed in conformance with Class II VRM objectives, except parcels 13, 26, and 27, which would be Class III. See Table 2-3, Visual Resource Management Classification by Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Public lands would be managed in conformance with Class II VRM objectives, except parcels 13, 26, and 27, which would be Class III. See Table 2-3, Visual Resource Management Classification by Alternative.</p>	<p>Public lands would be managed in conformance with Class III VRM objectives, except parcel 9, which would remain as a Class II, due to terms included in the judgment dated September 21, 1982. (Available for review in the Pinedale Field Office, BLM)</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Maintain scenic values pending disposal of the public land parcels.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (Continued)	<p>Pending parcel disposal, all proposals for surface-disturbing actions and/or facilities installation would be analyzed for impacts to visual values. Appropriate mitigation would be developed and incorporated into project design in accordance with assigned VRM objectives.</p> <p>Any transfers of public lands would require, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values.</p> <p>Riparian areas would be maintained for wildlife habitat as a condition of transfer of the public land parcels.</p>	<p>All proposals for surface-disturbing actions and/or facilities installation would be analyzed for impacts to visual values. Appropriate mitigation would be developed and incorporated into project design in accordance with assigned VRM objectives.</p> <p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	<p>Riparian area condition would be monitored and evaluated as part of site-specific activity or implementation plans. Management emphasis would be placed on riparian areas that are in less than proper functioning condition.</p>	<p>Riparian area condition would be monitored and evaluated as part of site-specific activity or implementation plans. Management emphasis would be placed on riparian areas that are in less than proper functioning condition.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal. These restrictions would not apply after parcel disposal.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Efforts would continue to improve water quality by cleaning up dumpsites on public lands, and encouraging dumpsite cleanup on adjacent lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	These efforts would continue in a minimal way until disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Riparian areas would be maintained for wildlife habitat as a condition of transfer of the public land parcels.	Riparian habitats that are outside the Snake River channel would be maintained in proper functioning condition. (Riparian habitats on the Snake River proper, between the levees, are in nonfunctioning condition because of the effects of flood control. This condition would remain constant.)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, pending parcel disposal. These restrictions would not apply after parcel disposal.	Same as Alternative A.
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: Maintain or enhance riparian and upland habitat for wildlife and fish and promote species diversity.	Maintain existing habitat for wildlife and fish.	Provide for wildlife habitat to the extent possible while allowing other uses.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Maintain existing habitat for wildlife and fish, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Continued)	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Measures to protect avian habitats would include seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 to 1 mile of nesting sites, depending on the species.	Measures to protect only raptor habitats would include seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 to 1 mile of nesting sites, or within view of nests, whichever is closer.	Measures to protect raptor habitats would include seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of nesting sites, or within view of nests, whichever is closer.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Wildlife Habitat	The acquiring or managing agency or entity would make decisions regarding actions necessary to maintain wildlife habitat.	No seasonal restrictions on recreational or other activities to protect avian habitats.	Same as Alternative A.	Where appropriate, measures to protect avian habitats would include seasonal restrictions on recreational and other disruptive activities.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
	Priority would be given to the modification of fences that are restricting wildlife movement in crucial big game habitat areas and along migration routes.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar action.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	To the extent possible, suitable habitat and forage would be provided to support wildlife populations defined in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Strategic Plan objectives.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal. These restrictions would not apply after parcel disposal.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

Table 2-1 - Comparison of Alternatives

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B BLM mgt for development	Alternative C BLM mgt for preservation	Alternative D Disposal	Alternative E BLM mgt for recreation and conservation
ACTIONS THAT DIFFER ACROSS ALTERNATIVES						
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Projects that maintain or improve fisheries habitat as much as possible in a leveed system would be considered. Cooperative efforts with WGFD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Teton County, and others would continue. Projects that adversely affect fisheries would be mitigated to the extent possible.	Projects that maintain or improve fisheries habitat as much as possible in a leveed system would be considered. Cooperative efforts with WGFD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Teton County, and others would continue.	Projects that adversely affect fisheries would be mitigated to the extent possible.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Fish Habitat</i>	Surface-disturbing activities that would add sediment to the Snake River would be prohibited when fish are spawning.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Projects that adversely affect fisheries would be mitigated to the extent possible.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 2-2
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DESIGNATION BY ALTERNATIVE**

OHV Class	Preferred Alternative (acres)	No Action Current Management Alternative A (acres)	Alternative B (acres)	Alternative C (acres)	Alternative D (acres)	Alternative E (acres)
Open	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limited	631	0	1073	631	0	631
Closed	442	0	0	442	0	442

**TABLE 2-3
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION BY ALTERNATIVE**

VRM Class	Preferred Alternative (acres)	No Action Current Management Alternative A (acres)	Alternative B (acres)	Alternative C (acres)	Alternative D (acres)	Alternative E (acres)
I	0	0	0	0	0	0
II	999	999	295	999	0	999
III	74	74	778	74	0	74
IV	0	0	0	0	0	0

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a description of the existing physical, biological, and socioeconomic characteristics of the planning area that would be affected by the alternatives described in Chapter 2. Environmental components that would not be affected or that are not important to the resolution of planning issues are not covered in detail. For descriptions of the public land parcels, see Appendix 4 and Maps 3-9.

Much of this information has been summarized from reports and other material on file in the Pinedale Field Office. Information which is available upon request includes a list of threatened, endangered, and candidate plant and animal species to be covered in the RMP EIS, a geologic map of the planning area, monthly weather station data, vegetative treatment guidelines for the control of noxious weeds, and copies of the judgments and stipulations entered in the court cases settling ownership of the parcels in the 1970s and 1980s.

The following resources are not present in the planning area and are not addressed in this RMP EIS: Prime and Unique Farmlands, Wilderness, Wild Horses, and Forestry (marketable timber). In addition, no areas have been determined to meet the criteria for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or other special management area designation.

AFFECTED RESOURCES

Climate and Air Quality

Climate and Meteorology

The climate of the Snake River area is classified as mid-latitude highland or alpine (Trewartha & Horn 1980; Martner 1986). Alpine climate is characterized by large varieties of local climates, depending on altitude and slope exposure, but is generally a similar and cooler version of nearby lowland climate.

Weather data for the Snake River planning area is available from a weather station located in Jackson. The Jackson weather station is at an elevation of 6,330 feet and is within the Snake River planning area.

Diurnal (morning to night) and seasonal (summer to winter) ranges in temperature are greater in valleys than on slopes (Martner 1986). Mean annual temperature is 39 degrees F. in Jackson. Summer highs are usually in the 70's and low 80's. Winter lows are generally in the single digits but may reach the minus teens (Western Regional Climate Center).

Mean annual precipitation is 16 inches in Jackson. Annual precipitation ranges from 8 inches in drought years to as much as 25 inches in wet years. Monthly precipitation is generally 1 to 1.5 inches throughout the year (Western Regional Climate Center). Total winter snowfall averages

about 4 feet, with most snow occurring from November through March. Mean monthly winter snowfall ranges from 10 to 20 inches (Western Regional Climate Center).

Wind speed and direction are highly variable due to the effect of local topography in the Snake River area. Annual average wind speed in Jackson is 6 miles per hour, and annual wind direction is generally from the northwest, west or southwest (Martner 1986). In mountainous areas like the Snake River area, local topography can strongly affect wind direction, particularly at night and under low wind speed conditions.

Air Quality

Pollutant Concentrations

Pollutant concentration refers to the mass of pollutant present in the air, and can be reported in units of micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) or parts per billion (ppb) (see Table 3-1). Air quality in the planning area is considered excellent; however, current and complete criteria air pollutant concentration data for the Snake River area are not available. The State of Wyoming has used monitoring and modeling to determine that the Snake River region is in compliance with Wyoming and federal standards. Air quality regulations for the state of Wyoming are listed in Appendix 3.

**TABLE 3-1
CONCENTRATIONS OF CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Monitored & Modeled Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Percent NAAQS (%)	Percent WAAQS (%)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 hour	1500	15	15
	1 hour	3500	9	9
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Annual	9	9	9
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Annual	9	11	15
	24 hour	43	12	17
	3 hour	132	10	19
Ozone (O ₃)	8 hour	139	89	89
	1 hour	144	61	
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Annual	12	24	24
	24 hour	20	13	13
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Annual	6	40	
	24 hour	10	15	

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) data were collected in Colorado in conjunction with the proposed oil shale development in the 1980s. Because carbon monoxide data are generally collected only in urban areas where automobile traffic levels are high, recent data are often unavailable for rural areas.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) data were collected at the Carbon County Underground Coal Gasification site in 1994 and 1995. Although more recent NO₂ data are not available, monitoring of other nitrogen-containing pollutants shows concentrations at Pinedale and Yellowstone National Park of nitric acid (HNO₃), nitrate (NO₃), and particulate ammonium (NH₄) are very low and are not increasing over time.

The Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNet) has measured concentrations of nitric acid, nitrate and ammonium, as well as ozone, sulphur dioxide and sulfate, in the United States since the late 1980s. There are three CASTNet stations in Wyoming: Centennial, Yellowstone National Park, and Pinedale. CASTNet data are available for Pinedale from 1989 through 1999, and for Yellowstone National Park from 1997 through 1999.

Mean annual concentrations of nitric acid (HNO₃) are less than 0.45 ppb in Pinedale and less than 0.3 ppb in Yellowstone National Park. Nitric acid concentrations typically range from 0.02 to 0.3 ppb in remote areas, and range from 3 to 50 ppb in polluted areas (Seinfeld 1986).

Mean annual concentrations of nitrate (NO₃) are less than 0.2 ppb in Yellowstone National Park. These concentrations are typical for remote areas. Polluted urban areas show mean annual nitrate concentrations of 1 ppb or more (Stern 1973).

Mean annual concentrations of ammonium (NH₄) are less than 0.3 ppb in Yellowstone National Park. Ammonium concentrations in remote areas are typically about 0.3 ppb, and about 1.5 ppb in urban areas (Stern 1973).

The Wyoming Air Resources Monitoring System (WARMS) has measured concentrations of nitrate and particulate ammonium, as well as sulfur dioxide and particulate sulfate, in Wyoming since 1999. There are five WARMS stations in Wyoming: Centennial, Buffalo, Sheridan, Newcastle, and Pinedale. Weekly concentrations of nitrate (NO₃) are below 1.5 µg/m³, and concentrations of ammonium (NH₄) are below 0.5 µg/m³ at Pinedale. Mean annual concentrations in remote areas are 0.5 µg/m³ for nitrate (NO₃) and 0.2 µg/m³ for ammonium (NH₄).

Because the chemistry of nitrogen-containing pollutants is very complex, it would be inappropriate to infer nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations from concentrations of nitric acid (HNO₃), nitrate (NO₃), and ammonium (NH₄). But it would be unlikely that high nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations would occur with low concentrations of other nitrogen-based pollutants.

Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) data were collected at the LaBarge study area in the 1980s. More recent sulfur dioxide (SO₂) data were collected by CASTNet in Pinedale and Yellowstone National Park, and by WARMS in Pinedale. Concentrations of sulfate (SO₄) from CASTNet and WARMS are also available. These concentrations are low and not increasing over time. Concentration of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is about 1 ppb in Yellowstone National Park. Mean annual sulfur dioxide

(SO₂) concentrations typically range from 1 to 10 ppb in remote areas, and from 20 to 200 ppb in polluted urban areas (Seinfeld 1986). Mean annual concentrations of sulfate (SO₄) are about 0.6 ppb in Yellowstone National Park. Sulfate concentrations in remote areas are typically about 0.6 ppb, and about 2.5 ppb in polluted urban areas (Stern 1973).

The weekly WARMS concentrations of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) from mid-1999 through 2001 was about 1.5 µg/m³ or less. Mean annual concentrations of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are typically less than 25 µg/m³ in remote areas and range from 50 to 500 µg/m³ in polluted urban areas (Seinfeld 1986).

Although it may not be appropriate to compare mean annual CASTNet sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations with national or Wyoming standards, the CASTNet concentrations do suggest that sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations are well below the NAAQS and WAAQS.

Ozone

Ozone (O₃) data were collected by the CASTNet station at Pinedale and Yellowstone National Park. Concentrations are relatively high (over 50% of the standards), but in compliance with the NAAQS and WAAQS. Mean annual ozone (O₃) concentrations in Yellowstone National Park have remained steady from 1989 through 1999.

Particulate Matter

Particulate matter (PM₁₀) data were collected at the Carbon County Underground Coal Gasification site in 1994 and 1995. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) data were estimated at one half PM₁₀ concentrations as recommended by EPA. Mean annual PM₁₀ concentrations were 24% of the NAAQS and WAAQS, and mean annual PM_{2.5} were 40% of the NAAQS.

Visibility

The Inter-Agency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program has measured visibility in national parks and wilderness areas in the United States since the 1980s. There are four IMPROVE stations in Wyoming: Centennial, Pinedale, Yellowstone National Park, and North Absaroka. Visibility can be expressed in terms of deciviews (dV), a measure for describing perceived changes in visibility. One dV is defined as a change in visibility that is just perceptible to an average person.

Visibility data are calculated for each day, ranked from cleanest to haziest, and divided into three categories:

- 10% cleanest: 10th percentile - mean visibility for the 10% of days with the best visibility
- average: the 50th percentile - the annual median visibility
- 10% haziest: the 90th percentile - mean visibility for the 10% of days with the poorest visibility

In Yellowstone National Park, visual range on the 10% cleanest days varies from 110 to 160 miles, average visual ranges varies from 85 to 115 miles, and visual range for the 10% haziest days varies from 50 to 90 miles. Trend analysis shows that visibility in Yellowstone National Park has improved from 1988 to 1998.

Atmospheric Deposition

Atmospheric deposition refers to the processes by which air pollutants are removed from the atmosphere and deposited on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and is reported as the mass of material deposited on an area (kilogram per hectare). Air pollutants are deposited by wet deposition (precipitation) and dry deposition (gravitational settling of particles and adherence of gaseous pollutants to soil, water, and vegetation). Substances deposited include:

- acids: such as sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) and nitric acid (HNO_3); this acid deposition is sometimes referred to as acid rain
- air toxics: such as pesticides, herbicides and volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- nutrients: such as nitrate (NO_3) and ammonium (NH_4)

The estimation of atmospheric deposition is complicated by the contribution to deposition by several components: rain, snow, cloud water, particle settling, and gaseous pollutants. Deposition varies with precipitation, which, in turn, varies with elevation and time.

Wet Deposition

The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) assesses wet deposition by measuring the chemical composition of precipitation (rain and snow). There are 8 NADP stations in Wyoming. The natural pH of rainwater ranges from 5.0 to 5.6 (Seinfeld 1986). Mean annual pH at Yellowstone National Park has varied from about 5.1 to 5.7.

Mean annual wet deposition of ammonium (NH_4), nitrate (NO_3), and sulfate (SO_4) at Yellowstone National Park are low: about 0.5 kg/ha for ammonium (NH_4), less than 3 kg/ha for nitrate (NO_3), and less than 4 kg/ha for sulfate (SO_4). Mean annual deposition is typically less than 5 kilograms per hectare in remote areas. Wet deposition values from 1980 through 2000 are low and steady, indicating that deposition has not worsened during that time.

Dry Deposition

Dry deposition refers to the transfer of airborne gaseous and particulate material from the atmosphere to the Earth's surface. The Clean Air Status and Trends network (CASTNet) measures dry deposition of ozone (O_3), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitric acid (HNO_3), sulfate (SO_4), nitrate (NO_3), and ammonium (NH_4). Mean annual dry deposition of sulphur- and nitrogen-containing compounds for Yellowstone National Park from 1990 through 1999 has been about 1 kilogram per hectare or less. Mean annual deposition is typically less than 5 kilograms per hectare in remote areas. Dry deposition values are low and steady, indicating that deposition has not worsened during that time.

Cultural and Natural History Resources

The planning area contains both prehistoric and historic cultural resources. It is not known if the planning area contains traditional cultural properties or sites considered sensitive to modern Native Americans.

Prehistoric Resources

Prehistoric cultural resources are present in the planning area; however, formal inventory work conducted by the BLM is limited. Preserved sites are projected to be few in number on BLM-administered public lands because of the recent age of many of the Snake River floodplain sediments. However, two sites (48TE1195 and 48TE1443) occupy higher land and confirm prehistoric occupation in the planning area. These two known sites are not eligible for the National Register, and are in the "discharged use" category (see Glossary).

The earliest sites found in western Wyoming are referred to as Paleoindian localities. One Paleoindian locality of national significance is the Lawrence Site, found at the inlet to Jackson Lake. Here, artifacts 10,000 to 11,000 years old have been located. More recent Archaic Period sites (9,000 years to 2,000 years old) containing dart points and Late Prehistoric Period sites (2,000 years old to about AD 1800, coming after the introduction of the bow and arrow) also occur in the planning area.

Prehistoric campsites are preserved in alluvial soils on the higher terraces of the Snake River. Sites predicted in this geomorphic setting include lithic scatters (predominantly containing obsidian), campsites, special use or extraction sites, stone alignments, hunting and fishing sites, and especially lithic procurement locales. The bluffs, terraces, and benches overlooking the Snake River can contain Pleistocene-aged quartzite cobble deposits exhibiting evidence of lithic procurement. The Teton Pass area is a major source of obsidian found in southwestern Wyoming archaeological sites and Teton Pass Obsidian will likely be identified in prehistoric sites of the planning area.

The Snake River may be named for the Shoshone (Snake) Indians and was a travel route for this tribe and others, such as the Bannock and the Flathead. Protohistoric Indian use by Numic speakers is postulated by at least one researcher (Butler 1983), so the presence of historic-period native American sites is possible.

The soils include alluvial loams and extensive river-deposited quartzite cobbles. When cobbles dominate the surface, the potential for finding buried sites is low. The National Park Service (1997, p 27) indicated that regular changes in the river channel would tend to destroy or displace prehistoric sites in the Snake River floodplain.

The few prehistoric sites like 48TE1195 or 48TE1443 discovered on public lands so far may not meet National Register criteria, but they can add to our knowledge of the overall prehistory of the area. The fact of their preservation along the Snake River is noteworthy, in view of the overbank flooding, river channel meandering, and massive events of erosion and deposition. Source analysis of the obsidian recovered from these sites can shed important light on prehistoric trade routes and exchange in the region. Certainly, much of the prehistory along the Snake has been lost. Studies at Jackson Lake (Conner, et al. 1991) have documented that dam construction and

wave action severely damaged the many sites along that water source. Smaller sites such as 48TE1443 shouldn't be overlooked for their potential to increase our knowledge of prehistoric settlement patterns.

There is a low probability of locating rock art on public lands along the Snake River, due to the lack of sandstone cliffs suitable for the inscription of petroglyphs.

Historic Resources

The potential for locating historic period Euroamerican sites in the planning area is good. The first non-Native American to visit the Snake River area was Robert Stuart, an Astorian fur trapper who passed through in 1812 (Rollins 1935). The Snake River valley was settled in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, so Euroamerican cultural resources might be encountered. Historic Period sites projected to be within the planning area include homestead remains, such as the John Dodge homestead (Wilson 1985, p. 314), located on the east side of the Snake River, at the base of Gros Ventre Butte. An examination of Government Land Office maps dating between 1890 and 1917 identified several cabins, homesteads (for example, Harmenson's House, George Bonnet's Cabin), roads, fences, and trails along the Snake River. One site, "Morse's House" near Taylor Creek, is plotted on 1902 maps as being very near public lands on the Snake River. During river reconnaissance in 2001, BLM located the remains of what appears to be the eastern approach of an early Snake River Bridge on Parcel 9. This historic period cultural resource is not recorded, nor is it evaluated for National Register eligibility. Other possible historic period sites include stock maintenance sites, placer mining sites, historic levee constructions, historic dam or bridge remains, ferries, historic trash scatters, and other cultural material remains over fifty years of age.

The Snake River is famous for periodic flooding and many dikes, levees, water diversions, bank stabilizations, and other flood control structures were constructed during the historic period. There is a high potential for some of these features to be found on BLM-administered lands.

Lands along the Snake River may qualify as a rural historic landscape. The Snake River valley retains a high degree of "integrity of setting," as natural topography is unspoiled and frequently breathtaking. It is unknown whether the landscape contains "character-defining features" that contribute to the historical significance of a rural historic landscape. Future inventory may include an assessment of the area's historic landscape potential.

In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the archaeology near Jackson, Wyoming. Spurred by a series of National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA-Forest Service projects there is an increased understanding of the prehistory of the area. Most of these projects have concentrated on large sites where mitigative excavations took place.

Residents of Jackson frequent the public lands along the Snake River to fish, enjoy the river, walk their dogs, jog, bicycle, and to observe floaters going by. This intense public use may account for the lack of prehistoric tools on recorded, preserved sites in the planning area. No proactive, site-specific cultural inventories have been done for the planning area.

Fire Management

Fire History

Fire frequency during recorded history has been low, due to the moist riparian environment which keeps lightning caused fires from spreading. During periods of extreme drought, it is likely that catastrophic fires may have resulted from heavy fuel loading that accumulated during long fire-free intervals. Wildland fire ignitions on the BLM-administered public lands parcels have been infrequent, and are generally suppressed at 0.1 acre or less. In the summer of 2001, the Green Knoll Fire burned over 2,000 acres, mostly on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, in an area south of Wilson, WY, and west of the Snake River. The fire exhibited some extreme fire behavior, and threatened many homes in the area.

Plant Responses To Fire

Fire can be an effective tool in the long-term maintenance of narrow-leaf cottonwood riparian complexes. Most of the plants associated with the narrow-leaf cottonwood riparian complex are fire tolerant and resprout following light to moderate fires.

Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) resprouts from roots, healthy and fire damaged branches, and root crowns after fire. Postfire sprouting generally occurs after light- to moderate-severity fire in pole sized and recently mature stands. The ability to produce postfire sprouts is greatly affected by stand age and location of the water table. Sprouting potential decreases proportionally as mature trees age. High water tables aid in the sprouting ability and subsequent sprout survival. Water insulates the tree's roots and reduces possibility of the tree being killed by the heat. The ability to resprout from branch fragments may also aid in postfire establishment (USDA 2002).

Fire generally increases the sediment load in streams when the majority of bank stabilizing vegetation is consumed. Narrowleaf cottonwood branch fragments have the ability to trap sediment for localized deposition by impeding stream flow. Fresh, moist, barren alluvium in full sun is very important in the regeneration of narrowleaf cottonwood. Regeneration through seeding is favored by fires that thin the overstory, allow more light penetration, and expose the mineral soil.

Due to the decreased probability of postfire sprouting by older mature trees, prescribed fires in narrowleaf cottonwood stands are not recommended past the pole and early maturation stages of development. Livestock grazing should be excluded for at least five years after fire, with wildlife browsing monitored.

Fire kills the aboveground portion of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) plants. The roots can survive severe fires. Overall, fire can slightly damage, or can enhance, Canada thistle. The plants can survive fire and sprout vegetatively from extensive perennial root systems, or colonize bare ground via seedling establishment after fire. When sites supporting Canada thistle are burned, its response is variable, and may be affected by season of burn, burn severity, site conditions, and plant community composition and phenology before and after the fire. Existing research provides no clear correlations with these variables (USDA 2002).

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), a noxious species, will increase following fire (USDA 2002).

Fire Management – Appropriate Management Response Category

In accordance with the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, firefighter and public safety are the first priority in fire management. All parcels fall into Category A – Areas where wildfire is not desired at all. Suppression is required to prevent direct threats to life or property. The USDA Forest Service has fire protection responsibility for the BLM-administered lands in Teton County. Under a mutual aid and protection agreement, Teton County is a first responder to any wildland fire incident on BLM-administered public lands. Burned areas will be evaluated to determine whether fire rehabilitation is needed.

Fuel Management

Several communities in the valley were identified as at high risk from wildfire in the August 17, 2001 Federal Register notice. Due to the riparian nature of the parcels and their proximity to private lands chemical treatments to reduce fuel loads will not be considered. Mechanical or biological treatments may be performed to reduce hazardous fuels in the urban interface. Projects will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and the standard mitigation guidelines will apply.

Desired Future Conditions

Maintain the existing mature cottonwood trees. See the Vegetation section for a description and the Table 2-1 Vegetation Management for Objectives.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR)

Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation refers to activities that may be completed following a wildfire. Activities could include seeding with native or nonnative species, noxious weed control, erosion control, and repairing or building temporary fencing burned in the fire. If an evaluation indicates that any of these activities is needed, an ESR Plan will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the Department of the Interior Handbook and BLM ESR guidance.

Lands and Realty

Access

Access to the public land parcels is fair. While some parcels are easily accessed, others can be reached only from the river channel (see Appendix 4 and Maps 1 and 3-9). Parcels that have good access include some of the largest parcels and the most valuable for recreation, including parcels 9-10, 11-14, 17-19, and 26. Parcels 3 and 8 are accessible through Grand Teton National Park, but only by hiking from public roads within the Park. Parcel 23 is accessible from the Fall Creek Road; however, it is difficult to determine where the parcel lies and the risk of trespassing on adjacent private lands is high. Parcel 27 can be accessed from US highway 189/191; however, it contains a trash transfer station and access is controlled by Teton County. Parcels 4-7, 15-16,

20-22, and 24 can only be accessed from the river, and it is extremely difficult to identify the parcels from the river channel.

Within the Snake River corridor, recreational access is available along levees maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Teton County, especially in the vicinity of Wyoming Highway 22 and Wilson Bridge. About 3 miles of levee on the west side of the river, leading south from Wilson Bridge, and 4 miles of levee east of the river and leading north from Wilson Bridge are accessible for hiking, horseback riding, skiing and other types of nonmotorized recreation. The access east of the river begins on public land near Emily Stevens Park, then crosses 11 acres of private land along an easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust, and continues on public land through the 320 acres of the Walton Greenway (Parcels 9-10, Map 5) .

A boat and river access site is located on the west side of the river immediately north of Wilson Bridge, on parcel 13 (Maps 1 and 5). Access to the Wilson boat ramp is currently private. There is no public easement to access the ramp. An easement should be pursued to ensure continued public access to the Wilson boat ramp.

A second major area for boat and river access is near South Park Bridge, across the river from parcel 26 (Maps 1 and 9). The area is private land leased by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and used as a take-out and put-in point by boaters floating from upstream or floating downstream. As described in an environmental assessment prepared by the Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest (February 7, 2000), the USDA-Forest Service has proposed that the boat ramp be moved across the river to the BLM-administered public land (parcel 26). The public land parcel is a better location for launching and landing boats during high water when the opposite bank is often flooded, and the public land parcel offers safer vehicle access from U.S. Highway 189/191. Teton County is proceeding, in cooperation with the BLM, to propose a boat ramp to be located on this parcel. A recreation project plan and environmental assessment (EA) for this project are being drafted by Teton County.

Restricted public use is allowed on most of the private lands in the Snake River channel through recreational easements. This access does not extend outside the river levees; in many cases it does not even include the levees themselves. The BLM was granted these easements and the responsibility for their management as part of the judicial settlements determining the ownership of the Snake River omitted lands (see "Landownership"). These easements allow only very specific uses of the river on private lands, including floating, fishing, wading, hiking, and picnicking. Most notably, boats can be anchored for fishing in these areas. They do not allow individuals to cross upland private lands to reach the river. Other uses, including camping, building fires, and hunting, are prohibited on the easements. No maps of the recreation easements are currently available. However, metes and bounds descriptions of the easement boundaries are available in the Pinedale Field Office. The Pinedale Field Office, together with the BLM Wyoming State Office, is pursuing mapping the recreation easements.

Maintaining "open public access to...natural resource areas," including the Snake River, for vehicle use, biking, hiking, horseback riding, and skiing is a community goal described in the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan (1994).

Landownership

Map 1 depicts landownership patterns in the planning area. See Appendix 4 and Maps 3-9 for descriptions of individual parcels of public land administered by the BLM along the Snake River.

The pattern of private, state, and public landownership along the Snake River, and BLM's administration of recreational easements in that area, has an interesting legal history. Original surveys conducted in the late 1800s ended at "meander lines" established near the then-banks of the very wide, braided channel of the Snake River. At some points, this channel was a mile or more wide. These "omitted lands" (omitted from the official U.S. survey) remained in public ownership as the Jackson Hole valley was settled. As levee construction proceeded in the 1950s, the lands began to be separated from the active channel of the Snake River. In the 1970s and 1980s, after long litigation, many of the "omitted" parcels were awarded to the adjacent private landowners, resulting in the scattered nature of the parcels that remain in public ownership today. For most of the parcels that did go into private ownership, recreation easements to the river channel were granted to the United States. Some of these easements, in the Wilson Bridge area, include access to the riverbank levees (Map 1).

The BLM is also responsible for administering mineral exploration and development on an additional 15,123 acres of federal mineral estate (Map 2). This mineral estate, which is mostly outside the river corridor, underlies privately owned lands.

According to the Jackson Hole Land Trust website, roughly 9,000 acres of conservation easements, along with some private lands, have been purchased in and around Jackson Hole for the preservation of critical wildlife habitat, open space and scenic vistas, and historic ranching heritage.

The Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan (1994) describes the acquisition of conservation easements as "an effective programmatic strategy for accomplishing natural resource protection and preservation of community character."

There is currently one Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease on BLM-administered lands. Parcel 27 is leased to Teton County for the Teton County Transfer Site (WYW-82509). Due to current regulations and Teton County's desire for this 40-acre site, this parcel should be sold to Teton County before the current lease expires (3/2/2015).

Rights of Way

There are no utility corridors designated on the BLM-administered lands. No interest has been expressed in developing utility corridors on the public land parcels; the parcels are disconnected, interspersed with private lands, and mostly located in riparian habitat on the river. Utility corridors would be more appropriately located in more accessible areas. BLM-administered lands do not contain suitable lands for communication sites. The BLM has granted several rights-of-way in the past for utilities and access roads. It is anticipated that sand and gravel development activity and the population growth in the area will continue to create a demand for rights-of-way.

Withdrawals

Withdrawals are used to preserve sensitive environmental values, protect major federal investments in facilities, support national security, and provide for public health and safety. They segregate a portion of public lands and suspend certain operations of the public land laws, such as desert land entries or mining claims. Land withdrawals can also be used to transfer jurisdiction to other Federal land-managing agencies. It is now federal policy to restrict all withdrawals to the minimum time required to serve the public interest, maximize the use of withdrawal lands consistent with their primary purpose and eliminate all withdrawals that are no longer needed.

Approximately 2,890 acres of public lands and mineral estate described in public land order (PLO) 7143 (published on June 1, 1995 in the Federal Register, see Appendix 7) are closed to mineral or surface entry until June 1, 2005 (Map 12). As explained in the PLO, "mineral or surface entry" pertains to activities such as the staking and development of mining claims for locatable minerals and desert land entry, but does not apply to the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands, or mineral leasing, or the extraction of sand and gravel through sales and permits.

Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing is authorized in four grazing allotments totalling about 544 acres in the planning area (Map 14). The level of authorized use is 300 animal unit months (AUMs). Sixty-two AUMs are authorized for spring grazing subject to an annual authorization. The remaining use takes place primarily during the summer on 10-year grazing leases issued under section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. Only a few range projects have been constructed in these allotments. There are also about 529 acres of unallotted public lands.

No grazing allotment management plans or grazing systems have been implemented in the planning area, but some rangeland monitoring information, including actual use records, utilization studies, and field observations, has been collected. The condition of riparian areas has also been assessed.

The allotment categorization process (see Glossary) helps managers identify the intensity of management activity need for each allotment. The Walton allotment (Parcels 9-10) was placed in the I (improve) category in 1999. Supporting documentation is available in the Pinedale Field Office.

All of the allotments have been assessed for conformance with the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Appendix 1). The Walton allotment (Parcels 9-10) failed to meet standard #4 because of past heavy grazing use on a portion of the allotment, which has reduced the health of the native shrub community. Management changes intended to bring the allotment into compliance with the standard have been agreed to. There has been some difficulty in consistently applying these management changes. The Porter Estate allotment (parcel 21) also failed standard #4, although a cause could not be determined at the time. Monitoring is ongoing to determine a course of action that will address the condition of Parcel 21. The Snake River Ranch allotment (parcels 23 and 24) met all the Standards. Documentation of Standards assessments and subsequent management of all the allotments is available in the Pinedale Field Office. While parcels 15-16 are also under grazing lease to the

Porter Estate, they have not been grazed by livestock in recent years and were not assessed for conformance with the Standards.

Livestock grazing is specifically mentioned in the settlement judgment for parcel 9, the Walton allotment. The Stipulation for Entry of Judgment was filed September 21, 1982, in the case between the United States and the Walton Ranch Company (United States of America v. Donald H. Albrecht, et al., U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, September 22, 1982). Item 5 of the Stipulation states:

The United States agrees as part of the settlement entered into by the parties herein, that the Walton Ranch Company, or its successor in interest in ownership ... shall have the right, as long as it or they are eligible under the laws and rules of the United States, to lease from the United States for grazing, agricultural or other authorized uses consistent with the maintenance of such property in its existing condition on the date hereof those parcels identified as 40, 41, 42, 43 and that portion of parcel 44 located north of the right of way line of Wyoming Highway 22, as long as the adjacent property of the Walton Ranch Company ... is utilized for agricultural purposes. The right of the Walton Ranch Company to lease said parcels shall be subject to a determination by the United States in any legally mandated planning procedure that said parcels should be maintained in their existing condition and/or utilized for agricultural purposes. In the event that it is determined by the United States in a legally mandated planning procedure that any part of said parcels should not be maintained in its existing condition and/or utilized for agricultural purposes, the Walton Ranch Company shall have the right to lease the remaining portion of the tracts in accordance with the provisions of this stipulation. The United States agrees that it will, to the greatest extent possible and permitted by law, insure that any use and/or development of any portion of the above described parcels will be consistent with the maintenance of such parcels in an optimum condition for the protection and preservation of aquatic and wildlife habitat.

Minerals and Geology

The planning area lies at the south end of the Jackson Hole basin (see Map 2). The landscape consists predominately of a floodplain composed of glacial outwash, with the glacial-shaped West Gros Ventre and East Gros Ventre buttes rising out of this plain. Volcanic activity, glaciers, running water, and movement along faults have shaped the present landscape over the last few million years. Glaciers have had the biggest role in current land form design. The Snake River has also had a significant contribution to the present day geomorphology. During the maximum glacial advance about 125,000 years ago (the Bull Lake Stage), ice covered the entire planning area. The ice sheet advanced south to the area of Munger Mountain. It once covered the tops of the Gros Ventre Buttes and was almost 2,000 feet thick in the vicinity of the town of Jackson (Good 1996).

Volcanic activity within the area is represented by basalt and andesite flows deposited on top of the Gros Ventre Buttes. Numerous hot and warm springs in and around the planning area provide evidence of hot magma at depth. Boyles Hill and Abercrombie Warm Springs occur within the planning area and are located on state and private land, respectively.

Tectonically, the area is one of the most active and structurally complex regions in the United States. Movement along the Teton and Hoback fault zones continues today, with earthquakes with magnitudes ranging from 1 to 6 occurring every few years. A magnitude 4 earthquake occurred along the Hoback Fault near Camp Davis in the spring of 1998. Higher magnitude earthquakes (greater than 7) occur every few thousand years. It is these more intense earthquakes that can modify landscapes and further displace fault scarps in moraine deposits along the east flank of the Teton Range. Two large Holocene earthquakes that created vertical displacement of 4.1 meters (13 feet) in surface alluvium and glacial deposits along the Teton Fault occurred about 7,175 years ago (Smith 1993). The Teton Range is one of the youngest mountain ranges in North America, with formation beginning about 13 million years ago. Today, the Tetons are still rising, and the Jackson Hole basin is still subsiding and receiving basin fill sediments.

Much of the tectonic activity of Jackson Hole is directly related to geologic events that have occurred in present-day Yellowstone and eastern Idaho over the last several million years. A series of deep magma plumes have risen from the earth's core to the surface over the last 15 million years to create explosive volcanic calderas. These eruptions have migrated northeast across southern Idaho where the most recent volcanic eruption created the Lava Creek Caldera in Yellowstone 600,000 years ago.

Mineral Resources

Leasable Minerals

Oil and Gas

There have been no oil and gas wells drilled within the planning area. The nearest wells to the planning area (all dry holes) were drilled along the Darby Thrust Fault in and around Hoback Junction, about 14 miles south of Jackson. All these wells were drilled in the late 1970s or early 1980s when petroleum prices were at their peak and justified the high risk of exploring a frontier area. The deepest well was drilled in 1981-82 to a depth of 16,350 feet in the Astoria Unit near Hoback Junction. There have been no oil and gas discoveries near the planning area. The nearest show was a noncommercial gas discovery from the Frontier Formation at Game Hill about 12 miles to the southeast.

The petroleum potential within the planning area north of the Cache Creek Thrust Fault is unknown. No deep drilling has taken place to evaluate the potential of the deep post Precambrian section underlying Jackson Hole. South of the Cache Creek Thrust Fault, the planning area is within the overthrust belt with a thick post-Precambrian rock section up to 20,000 feet thick. Potential for occurrence of hydrocarbons in the southern portion of the planning area is moderate.

In 1995, the US Geological Survey (USGS) conducted an assessment of the oil and gas resources of the United States. The assessment presents information about the undiscovered accumulations of oil and gas in various geologic or structural provinces from which hydrocarbons have been or may be produced. Information from that assessment concerning the Jackson Hole area is presented in Table 3-2.

TABLE 3-2

USGS CONVENTIONAL PLAY DATA FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN WYOMING PROVINCE

Play Name	Exploration Status	Producing	Oil Fields (>1 MMBO)		Gas Fields (>6 BCFG)	
			Size Range	Number Range	Size Range	Number Range
Moxa Arch LaBarge	Mature	Yes	5-20 MMBO	1-4	50-250 BCFG	2-7
Basin Margin Anticline	Immature- Moderately Mature	Yes	5-30 MMBO	1-3	12-100 BCFG	1-10
Subthrust	Immature- Moderately Mature	Yes	5-50 MMBO	1-5	20-150 BCFG	1-5
Jackson Hole	Immature	No	2-10 MMBO	1-3	9-40 BCFG	1-3

For this assessment, undiscovered, technically recoverable resources were defined as estimated quantities of resources hypothesized to exist on the basis of geologic knowledge, data from past discoveries, and resources which may be contained in undiscovered accumulations outside of known fields. Estimates of resource quantities were determined to be producible using current recovery technology, but without considering economic viability.

As can be seen from the table, the possibility for several oil and gas fields exists in the Jackson Hole area. Potential production of oil and gas would be substantially lower than for other areas in southwest Wyoming. The exploration status of the Jackson Hole area can be described as immature, since little or no drilling has taken place in the area.

Geothermal

The geothermal potential within the study area is moderate to good. However, the potential for commercial development of the resource is low. Legislation has been introduced at the state and federal level on several occasions to protect geothermal resources within the greater Yellowstone ecosystem from drilling and development.

Abercrombie Warm Springs occurs at the north end of East Gros Ventre Butte along the Warm Springs Fault. Boyles Hill Warm Springs occurs along the Jackson Thrust Fault. Kelly and Teton Valley Warm Springs are found just northeast of the planning area while Astoria Warm Springs is located along the Snake River south of the planning area. The water temperature of these warm springs ranges between 80 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. All the above springs occur on private and state lands.

Coal

No economic coal deposits exist within the planning area. The only coal mine known to exist within the area was on the northwest side of Boyles Hill. The long-abandoned mine went into the hillside at least 30 feet and the zone mined was in the steeply dipping Cretaceous-age Bacon

Ridge Sandstone located near the Jackson Thrust Fault (Love 1972). The adit was originally timbered but is now caved in. No coal thickness was determined due to the lack of outcrops. The areal extent of this coal deposit is very limited, probably less than five acres. The coal was probably mined in the early part of the century and used locally to supply the heating needs of the Jackson area. Outcrops of the Aspen Shale in the southern portion of the area may contain low-grade, thinly bedded coal, but are not of economic significance. No other coal deposits are known to exist in the planning area.

Sodium, Potassium, and Oil Shale

The potential for the occurrence of these leasable minerals is low. No deposits are known to exist within the planning area.

Phosphate

The south half of the planning area (the Jackson quadrangle) was mapped in the late 1960s and early 1970s by the U.S. Geological Survey in order to classify public lands, to investigate potential mineral resources, and to provide a basis for environmental planning (Love 1972). Actual and potential resources identified include phosphate, coal, sand and gravel, limestone, and riprap. There are some public lands inside the planning area that have been classified for phosphate.

Nearly all phosphate is contained in the Meade Peak Member of the Phosphoria Formation. Outcrops of the Phosphoria Formation with phosphate-bearing beds occur on both East and West Gros Ventre Buttes. Exposures of the Phosphoria Formation also occur south of Snow King Mountain east of the Hoback Fault and U.S. Highway 189. Gere and others in 1966 exposed phosphate beds in a trench dug on the south side of Snow King Mountain in the northeast corner of sec. 9, T. 40 N., R. 116 W. Two phosphate beds were exposed in the Meade Peak Member. One bed was 4.4 feet thick (containing 23 percent phosphate) and the another bed was 12 feet thick (assayed at 15 percent phosphate). Additional lands classified as potentially valuable for phosphate lie west of the planning area and south of Teton Pass.

Outcrops of the Phosphoria Formation in the areas described have very limited extent due to steep bedrock dips of 15 to 60 degrees. Because of these limited exposures and steep dips in mountainous terrain, it is unlikely that any phosphate would be developed.

Salable Mineral Deposits

The most important mineral material occurring within the planning area is gravel. Extensive deposits occur in terraces and along the floodplain of the Snake and Gros Ventre Rivers. The glacial deposits of gravel are generally 50 to 100 feet thick along the Snake River but in some areas, as under the town of Jackson, the gravel thickness may reach 300 feet. The planning area in the past contained many gravel pits and quarries to meet the needs of highway, county, and private road construction. Today, the planning area contains only three gravel operations. Two are companies operating on private lands along the Snake River. The third operation was located north of the South Park highway bridge to supply gravel for widening U.S. Highway 189 south of

Jackson. No sand or gravel is currently being commercially produced from federal lands or mineral estate in the planning area.

Demand for sand and gravel in Jackson Hole is increasing as the number of homes, businesses, and roads in the area continues to grow. The private gravel operations have limited resources.

In portions of the river where gravel is currently being extracted from private lands, high river flows in the spring have been replacing the gravels extracted in the previous year. This creates a unique situation where a supply of gravel is available annually, without the creation of an ever-enlarging gravel pit. In some portions of the river, particularly upstream of highway bridges, streambed gravels are building up and have caused channel aggradation of up to nine feet above the 1954 channel level.

Another mineral material of somewhat less importance is riprap. Demand for riprap is great along the Snake River to build and maintain the river levees. Maintaining these levees is important to prevent flooding and thereby protect surrounding real estate. Riprap can be obtained from existing quarries in volcanic rocks located upon East and West Gros Ventre Buttes. Talus debris at the bottom of the buttes may also supply some riprap demands.

Locatable Minerals and Mining Claims

There are no active mining claims within the planning area; however, claims have been located in the past. The most recent claims were located in the late 1960's, with the latest activity in 1982. For the most part, these were placer claims located along the Snake River for gold. All claims in the planning area have been abandoned.

Gold is the primary locatable mineral deposit within the planning area. The potential for the occurrence of gold within the river gravels is low. Placer gold was first discovered in the Snake and Gros Ventre River gravels in the 1860's. The gold occurs as minute flakes and flour within large volumes of sand and gravel. The source area for the gold is unknown.

The potential for placer gold development is low within the study area, since it is unlikely that sufficient amounts of gravel could be mined to make an operation profitable. No past placer operations in Jackson Hole Valley are known to have yielded economically profitable amounts of gold (Love 1972).

Mineral Withdrawal

Approximately 5,937 acres of public lands and mineral estate described in public land order (PLO) 7143 (published on June 1, 1995 in the *Federal Register*, see Appendix 7) are closed to mineral or surface entry until June 1, 2005 (Map 10). As explained in the PLO, "mineral or surface entry" pertains to activities such as the staking and development of mining claims for locatable minerals and desert land entry, but does not apply to the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands; mineral leasing; or the extraction of sand and gravel through sales and permits. Public land and mineral estate not included in the area described in PLO 7143 are currently open to locatable mineral or surface entry.

Geologic Hazards

Potential geologic hazards in the planning area include river flooding, earthquakes, and landslides. In general, the risk of property damage (and possible human injury) caused by geologic hazards is increased as development of the Jackson Hole area increases.

Flooding

The greatest near-term hazard is from river levee failure during extreme high water in the Snake and Gros Ventre rivers. Flows usually peak from mid-May to early July each year. Rapid erosion and possible flooding may occur with flow rates exceeding 20,000 cubic feet per second. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the primary agency responsible for building and maintaining the Snake River levee system and protecting the surrounding lands from flooding.

Construction of the levee system for flood control was begun in the 1950s. The levees have been expanded over the years as needed to improve flood control. Unfortunately, the levees have restricted the river's flow and changed the dynamics of the system, primarily by increasing the erosive force of the water. Because many homes have been built in the floodplain, an increasing number of private levees are being constructed to protect the real estate.

When flooding along the Snake River does occur, as in the spring of 1986, levees can fail and land with river bank trees can be swept into the river. Later these trees and other woody debris catch in the river channel and create new "snags." The snags then collect silt and gravel and change the hydrodynamics of the river system. If the snags are left in the river, future erosion of the levees with potential flooding is more likely. The Corps estimated in 1988 that the Snake River had about 10,000 snags from the south boundary of Grand Teton National Park to the South Park Bridge. The Corps completed an environmental study in 1989 and 1990 which addressed removing some of these snags to restore some of the main river channel.

Higher than normal snow melt occurred in the spring of 1997 and high water flows destroyed a levee on public land where Butler Creek enters the river. With the levee gone, valuable ranch land was swept into the river.

Earthquakes

Within the planning area are portions of the active Teton and Hoback normal faults. For the most part, earthquakes have been frequent (every year or so) and have been low in intensity. Little property damage due to earthquakes has occurred in the past hundred years. A magnitude 6 earthquake occurred in 1932 near the town of Jackson. A magnitude 6 earthquake also occurred at Teton Pass in 1948 where the Cache Creek and Jackson thrust faults intersect. There have been at least five other earthquakes in the planning area vicinity with magnitudes of 4 or 5 over the past 70 years.

The potential for property damage has increased, especially in the northwestern portion of the planning area. Today, more and more homes are built away from the valley floor upon slopes and loosely-consolidated alluvial fan deposits. As a consequence, even small intensity quakes may activate landslides and dislodge boulders, resulting in property damage.

Landslides

Landslides and mudslides are another geologic hazard within the planning area. Landslides caused U.S. Highway 189 to be rerouted from the east bank of the Snake River to the west bank, and the South Park bridge to be built. Here soft Tertiary shale and sandstone rock has slid toward the river bank as the Snake River exits the Jackson Hole valley and enters the upper Snake River Canyon. The fast moving water has cut into this steep bank as the Snake River makes a sharp bend southeast of the South Park highway bridge.

The most famous recent landslide of the region is the Lower Gros Ventre Slide. This slab-type slide occurred in 1925 when Pennsylvanian-aged rocks on the north slopes of Sheep Mountain slid north, blocking the Gros Ventre River. A natural dam 225 feet high was created. Water backed up behind the debris dam and created Lower Slide Lake, which is two miles long. Two years later in the spring of 1927, the top 50 feet of this natural dam broke and flooded the Gros Ventre valley. This sudden wall of water destroyed the village of Kelly, with a loss of six lives (Love 1997). Other more ancient landslides exist further up the Gros Ventre river drainage system. The Lower Gros Ventre Slide is located about 12 air miles northeast of the planning area (for the geology of the slide area, see Love 1992).

Further to the south in the spring of 1997, a mudslide blocked U.S. Highway 89 just south of Hoback Junction. Landslides are most prone to happen in the spring when the ground is saturated with snowmelt and glide planes are well lubricated.

Off-Highway Vehicles

Most of the existing roads on the public land parcels are part of the US and/or Teton County transportation system. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) which are used in the planning area include snowmobiles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and mountain bikes. OHV use on BLM parcels in the planning area is minimal, due to limited public road access. However, some unauthorized trails are becoming established. Motorized boating occurs but is not currently a popular activity. Mountain biking on the levees is a common recreation activity. Some mountain bike use is also occurring off road and contributes to the maintenance of unauthorized trails.

The BLM recognizes the use of bicycles and other human-powered, mechanized conveyances as appropriate recreational activities. Federal regulations do not specifically address management of non-motorized vehicle use. There are substantial differences in the types of use, associated impacts, and management approaches between non-motorized and motorized vehicle activities. Until a national strategy and rules for non-motorized vehicle use on public lands are established, the BLM will continue to include non-motorized use within the context of OHV designations.

Paleontological Resources

Pleistocene-age river terrace deposits along the Snake River have a very slight potential to contain vertebrate fossils. The occurrence of fossils in the river gravels and riparian areas is very remote. There is a slightly higher potential for fossil occurrence on the parcels (20, 22, and 26) that include lands above the river terraces.

Recreation

The types of recreation activities available on BLM-administered lands in the planning area or as a result of public access include: float fishing and scenic floating, both private and guided; waterfowl hunting; mountain biking; hiking, dog walking, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing and OHV activities. The season of use for the planning area is year long; there are recreation activities for any season of the year. Visitor use is highest during the summer months. In addition to public lands in the planning area, recreation easements on private lands within the river levees provide for recreation access for the purposes of boating, rafting, fishing, hiking, and picnicking. These easements do not provide increased access to the river, but a greater range of activities when one is on the river. Unlike most areas in Wyoming, recreationists may anchor boats, wade, swim, and hike in the river channel where the underlying surface is private land. Hunting, open fires, and overnight camping are prohibited on all recreation easements on private lands. Public lands in the planning area are closed to overnight camping.

The majority of river floating activity occurs during the warmest months following the high flows of early summer snow melt. Float fishing use begins in April with the opening of trout fishing season and peaks as fishing conditions improve during late summer and fall. Walking, biking, and horseback riding are the most common upland activities. Swimming and wade fishing are also popular activities and most commonly occur near the public access locations provided at the Wilson Bridge and near Emily Stevens County Park. A few lesser known road-accessed river locations provide additional river corridor access.

The only developed boating access on public lands is the Wilson Bridge boat ramp (parcel 13, Map 5). The Wilson Bridge boat ramp is a boating take-out and put-in for approximately 23 miles of the Snake River. This access, developed in cooperation with Teton County, consists of a gravel ramp for launching and landing boats, a parking area, restrooms, and information kiosk. The National Park Service provides boating access at Moose, Wyoming, for floating downstream to the Wilson Bridge access. Some limited floating access is provided by private landowners.

Other public boating access is provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department through an access agreement on private lands located at the north end of the South Park Bridge. An area on public lands on the south side of the South Park bridge (parcel 26, Map 9) has occasionally been used for landing and launching boats, but has not been developed for this purpose. There is currently a proposal to develop a boat launch area on public lands near the South Park bridge.

Commercially-guided scenic float and fishing trips are popular in the planning area as part of the tourism-based economy of the town of Jackson. Commercial, competitive, and large group floating activities are currently unregulated within the planning area, except where floating access is provided by the National Park Service in Moose, Wyoming. The USDA-Forest Service

regulates commercial, competitive, and group use in river segments below the South Park bridge. Commercial and private floating use fluctuates yearly, but water-based recreation activity and demand throughout the region has increased dramatically over the past 20 years. The demand for these services and activities will likely continue to grow. River use allocation measures have been implemented by other land management agencies to protect wildlife habitat, provide for human health and safety, and maintain a quality recreation experience. The commercial floating and large group floating use is at times at or near maximum use levels. The river segments within the planning unit provide for substantial commercial and private floating use. Rough estimates of floating use in the Wilson to South Park floating segment exceed 25,000 people per floating season. As many as 60 boats per day may launch from the Wilson Bridge boat ramp. Upland use by the public for recreation activities on public lands and easements within the river corridor likely exceeds 25,000 visits per year. The demand for recreation facilities and recreation activities currently exceeds the supply of services and opportunities. This imbalance is expected to continue regardless of applied existing or future management scenarios. A trend of increasing recreation visitation is also expected to continue, further widening the gap between supply and demand.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Public lands are managed to provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities. The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) provides the BLM with a framework for determining existing outdoor recreation opportunities and management potential based upon a combination of activity, setting, and experience.

Use of the ROS provides for establishment of outdoor recreation management goals and objectives for specific areas, provides for analysis of the impact of proposed resource management actions on available recreation opportunities, provides for monitoring in terms of established standards for recreation experience and opportunities settings, and provides for specific management objectives and standards for project plans.

The ROS system divides the continuum into six management classes, with “primitive” providing the most isolated, natural, and challenging setting and “urban” providing the most user intensive, developed, and modified setting. The ROS classifications for this planning process were described based upon what the recreationist may see, hear, and experience from the river corridor where public lands and recreation easements allow for public use management. The six classes are: primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and modern urban. The ROS classifications for the Snake River corridor are depicted on Map 16.

The recreation opportunity spectrum system describes probable physical settings, experiences, and activities for each class and identifies where these combinations occur within the planning area. Area classification allows for flexibility where the overlapping of class characteristics commonly occur. The use of this system on public lands will help better recognize and meet the public’s growing demand for a wide variety of recreation activities and settings within the planning area.

Socioeconomics

Overview

Jackson is located in northwest Wyoming and serves as a gateway to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. It is located in a scenic valley known for the surrounding majestic mountains and beautiful vistas. As a result of the beauty of the area, tourism is an important component to the local economy. In addition, given this backdrop, Jackson is a highly desirable place to live. However, this desirability must be contrasted against the high cost of living in the area.

Due to high housing costs, Teton County is the most expensive county in Wyoming in which to live (State of Wyoming 2001). The cost of living in Teton County is, on average, 41% higher than in all the other counties in Wyoming. This is a significant cost of living differential that sets Jackson apart from the rest of the state.

Population

The population growth rate from 1970 through 2000 for Jackson and Teton County has been substantially greater than the average for the state of Wyoming, as shown in Table 3-3. This high sustained growth rate for the 30 year period beginning in 1970 illustrates the desirability of the Jackson area. In addition, it reveals the potential for an increase in demand for local access to public land along the Snake River.

The Wyoming Department of Administration and Information projected the populations of Jackson and Teton County would be 6,701 and 16,280, respectively, by 2008. However, Table 3-3, with information from the 2000 Census, indicates the forecast was underestimated. Both Jackson and Teton County had surpassed the population forecast for 2008 by the year 2000.

**TABLE 3-3
POPULATION**

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000
Jackson				
Population (number of persons)*	2,688	4,511	4,472	8,647
Compound Annual Growth Rate (10 year increments)		5.31%	-0.09%	6.82%
Compound Annual Growth Rate (1970 base year)				3.97%
Teton County				
Population (number of persons)*	4,823	9,355	11,172	18,251
Compound Annual Growth Rate (10 year increments)		6.85%	1.79%	5.03%
Compound Annual Growth Rate (1970 base year)				4.54%
Wyoming				
Population (number of persons)*	332,416	469,557	453,588	493,782
Compound Annual Growth Rate (10 year increments)		3.51%	-0.35%	0.85%
Compound Annual Growth Rate (1970 base year)				1.33%

*U.S Bureau of Census

Income

Tourism is an important component of the local economy in Jackson and Teton County. As illustrated in Table 3-4, the sectors entitled retail trade and services have been growing at an adjusted annual compound rate of 5.54% and 6.48%, respectively, from 1970 through 2000 (measured in 2000 dollars). Moreover, retail trade is growing at a rate that is 73% greater than the growth rate for retail trade for the state of Wyoming (Table 3-5).

It is also interesting to note that services accounted for nearly 25% of personal income in Teton County, compared to only about 13% of personal income in Wyoming, in 2000. Also, in 2000, retail trade constituted nearly 9.5% of personal income in Teton County, compared to only 6.2% of personal income for the state of Wyoming. As a percentage of personal income, the sectors making up the bulk of the tourism economic activity are much more important to the Teton County economy than to the Wyoming economy as a whole.

Teton County has been experiencing a substantial growth rate in population. This is reflected in four of the sectors: construction; retail trade; finance, insurance and real estate; and services. The annual adjusted growth rate difference from 1970 to 2000 in these four categories for Teton County compared to the state of Wyoming is, respectively, 73.26%, 72.99%, 60.45% and 41.35% higher.

TABLE 3-4
PERSONAL INCOME, TETON COUNTY

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Compound Annual Growth Rate
Personal income	134,933	294,069	510,621	933,387	6.66%
Nonfarm personal income	130,322	292,796	509,101	933,510	6.78%
Farm income ¹	4,611	1,273	1,520	-123	
Earnings by place of work	97,311	210,694	360,418	638,655	6.47%
less: Personal cont. for social insurance ²	3,488	9,122	24,423	42,553	8.70%
plus: Adjustment for residence ³	-555	-6,000	-40,875	-97,123	18.79%
equals: Net earnings by place of residence	93,268	195,572	295,121	498,979	5.75%
plus: Dividends, interest and rent ⁴	36,672	85,661	193,683	399,688	8.29%
plus: Transfer payments	4,993	12,836	21,817	34,720	6.68%
Wage and salary disbursements	65,467	137,946	263,516	475,034	6.83%
Other labor income	2,734	13,621	27,435	41,494	9.49%
Proprietors' income ⁵	29,110	59,127	69,449	122,127	4.90%
Farm proprietors' income	2,206	-698	542	-1,055	
Nonfarm proprietors' income	26,904	59,825	68,908	123,182	5.20%
Farm earnings	4,611	1,273	1,520	-123	
Nonfarm earnings	92,700	209,422	358,898	638,778	6.65%
Private earnings	75,537	176,001	312,756	561,772	6.92%
Ag. Services, forestry, fishing, & other ⁶	746	788	1,760	7,967	8.22%
Mining	852	14,497	1,265	(D)	8.16%
Construction	9,218	34,699	54,898	117,143	8.84%
Manufacturing	3,484	6,382	7,822	15,083	5.01%
Transportation and public utilities	2,694	7,367	9,846	21,205	7.12%
Wholesale trade	1,172	4,353	5,341	(D)	
Retail trade	17,544	35,111	58,071	88,517	5.54%
Finance, insurance, and real estate	4,966	9,636	17,909	66,455	9.03%
Services	34,862	63,169	155,843	229,072	6.48%
Government and government enterprises	17,162	33,420	46,142	77,006	5.13%

**TABLE 3-5
PERSONAL INCOME, WYOMING**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Compound Annual Growth Rate
Personal income	5,806,353	11,646,597	10,750,231	13,521,575	2.86%
Nonfarm personal income	5,435,440	11,466,606	10,559,189	13,412,188	3.06%
Farm income ¹	370,913	179,991	191,042	109,387	-3.99%
Earnings by place of work	4,579,659	9,481,940	7,530,552	8,940,138	2.25%
less: Personal cont. for social ins. ²	161,615	434,627	443,716	546,999	4.15%
plus: Adjustment for residence ³	586	-160,186	-15,830	-33,763	
equals: Net earnings by place of res.	4,418,630	8,887,127	7,071,006	8,359,376	2.15%
plus: Dividends, interest and rent ⁴	933,448	1,941,106	2,512,872	3,561,517	4.56%
plus: Transfer payments	454,275	818,364	1,166,353	1,600,682	4.29%
Wage and salary disbursements	3,483,912	7,382,858	5,562,081	6,772,578	2.24%
Other labor income	211,952	864,057	793,082	803,106	4.54%
Proprietors' income ⁵	883,794	1,235,025	1,175,390	1,364,454	1.46%
Farm proprietors' income	231,556	59,840	124,188	29,084	-6.68%
Nonfarm proprietors' income	652,239	1,175,186	1,051,201	1,335,370	2.42%
Farm earnings	370,913	179,991	191,042	109,387	-3.99%
Nonfarm earnings	4,208,746	9,301,949	7,339,511	8,830,751	2.50%
Private earnings	3,117,233	7,649,396	5,366,109	6,735,326	2.60%
Ag. Svcs, forestry, fishing, other ⁶	27,215	30,425	50,777	73,498	3.37%
Mining	547,538	2,368,178	1,310,740	1,326,625	2.99%
Construction	377,198	1,131,352	498,755	760,400	2.36%
Manufacturing	274,686	433,727	365,436	471,765	1.82%
Transportation and public utilities	481,361	924,125	740,282	767,328	1.57%
Wholesale trade	144,195	414,417	250,765	298,233	2.45%
Retail trade	536,004	875,953	695,019	837,076	1.50%
Finance, insurance, & real estate	155,961	290,903	247,437	446,889	3.57%
Services	573,075	1,180,316	1,206,898	1,753,512	3.80%
Government and govt enterprises	1,091,513	1,652,554	1,973,401	2,095,425	2.20%

Footnotes for tables 3-4 and 3-5 (all figures are in 2000 dollars):

¹ Farm income consists of proprietors' income; the cash wages, pay-in-kind, and other labor income of hired farm workers; and the salaries of officers of corporate farms.

² Personal contributions for social insurance are included in earnings by type and industry but they are excluded from personal income.

³ The adjustment for residence is the net inflow of the earnings of interarea commuters.

⁴ Rental income of persons includes the capital consumption adjustment.

⁵ Proprietors' income includes the inventory valuation adjustment and capital consumption adjustment.

⁶ "Other" consists of wage and salary disbursements to U.S. residents employed by international organizations and foreign embassies and consulates in the United States.

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

*REIS, Regional Economic Information System 1969-98, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per Capita Income

Per capita income provides a good indicator of the economic well being of an area. Teton County has, by a large margin, the highest per capita income in the state of Wyoming, with a 2000 per capita income of \$50,913. Per capita income in Teton County is 86% higher than for the state of Wyoming for the year 2000 (Table 3-6).

**TABLE 3-6
PER CAPITA INCOME, TETON COUNTY AND WYOMING**

	2000
Wyoming	27,372
Albany	23,772
Big Horn	19,884
Campbell	27,601
Carbon	23,434
Converse	23,381
Crook	22,846
Fremont	22,267
Goshen	22,921
Hot Springs	23,393
Johnson	24,381
Laramie	28,035
Lincoln	20,980
Natrona	32,112
Niobrara	23,355
Park	26,686
Platte	23,984
Sheridan	28,221
Sublette	26,927
Sweetwater	29,125
Teton	50,913
Uinta	22,042
Washakie	25,428
Weston	26,280

Summary

The population growth in Teton County increases the demand for access to public land along the Snake River corridor. Additionally, the growth in tourism increases the demand for access to these same public lands. No other lands along the Snake River in Teton County provide the type of river access, close to town and residences, available on the public lands in the planning area.

The importance of tourism to the Teton County economy points out the consequence of recreational expenditures to the overall vitality of the county's economy. One way of examining these recreational expenditures is to identify the new money coming into the local economy as a result of tourism, and then use a regional model, such as an Input/Output model, to quantify the direct, indirect and induced impacts associated with a particular alternative. However, for this RMP EIS, the analysis will focus on the non market values of the public lands along the Snake River corridor as they relate to the different management alternatives being considered. The public lands in the Snake River planning area are influenced by the private real estate market. However, in addition to the high land prices in Teton County, there are additional values attached to these public lands that are not measured in the private market. Non-market values of the BLM parcels were further studied in a Contingent Valuation Methodology study conducted in 2001 (see Appendix 6).

Soils

Soils found along the Snake River floodplain generally are dark, poorly drained, and have a fine sandy loam surface about 24 to 30 inches thick overlying extremely gravelly loamy sand to a depth of 60 inches or more. These soils are characterized by a fluctuating water table between 3 feet and the surface from May through July and are subject to flooding from May through June.

The plant community is dominated by species that tolerate a high water table. Cottonwood, willow, hawthorn, buffaloberry, silverberry, and currant are common woody species.

Flooding and high water tables put severe limitations on building site development, sanitary facilities, and permanent recreational facilities. Wildlife habitat potential is good and the potential as a gravel source is good. These soils are a poor source for topsoil and for material with which to construct dikes, embankments, or levees.

Upland areas, with slopes from 10 to 90%, are dominated by dark, well drained, silt loam or loam soils greater than 60 inches to bedrock. Some areas have rock fragments throughout the soil profile.

The plant community is characterized by sagebrush along with bitterbrush, serviceberry and snowberry, and grasses in the open areas, while lodgepole pine and Douglas fir are often found on forested hillsides.

Steep slopes are the main limitation to building site development, sanitation facilities, and permanent recreational facilities. Wildlife habitat potential is fair to good. These soils are a poor source for gravel or topsoil.

Detailed soils information for this area can be found in: Soil Survey of Teton County, Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park Area, 1982, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Special Status Plant Species

Complete floristic inventories have not been conducted on a large scale in the Bureau; information available on each species varies, as do potential threats and opportunities for management and protection. Site specific and general inventories have been conducted for some species; however, areas inventoried but having no candidate plants frequently were not mapped and/or the information was never placed in reports that could be referenced. Permanent transects and baseline information have been gathered for other species. Complete information is lacking for many of the species.

The BLM is required by law to protect and manage for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Four plants known to occur in Wyoming have been listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. BLM is also required to protect and manage for state listed species. The State of Wyoming does not have an official list of rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Wyoming BLM has established a list of BLM state sensitive species. BLM is required to protect

these plants at the minimum level of protection as a federal candidate species. State and federal agencies have historically given these species special consideration until their status is accurately assessed.

Federally Listed Species

The planning area has one known federally listed plant species near its boundaries. The other listed or proposed species are located in the central and eastern portions of Wyoming.

Ute Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), an orchid listed as threatened, has been located along the South Fork of the Snake River in Idaho, and similar habitat occurs along the Snake River corridor in Wyoming. Several searches have found suitable habitat but no individuals within the planning area. A survey conducted for the Fall Creek Road improvement project also found no individuals of this species. This species does not produce growth every year, so it is possible that the species does occur and has not been found yet; however, the elevation of Jackson Hole is thought to be too high for the species. The likelihood that the Ute ladies'-tresses occurs in the planning area is low.

BLM Sensitive Species

The Pinedale Field Office has six BLM sensitive species within its boundary. Their habitat is not found within the Snake River Corridor and the species are not expected to be found in the planning area. Table 3-7 lists the species and their associated habitats.

TABLE 3-7
SENSITIVE SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat
meadow pussytoes	<i>Antennaria arcuata</i>	Moist, hummocky meadows, seeps or springs surrounded by sage/grasslands 4,950-7,900'
Trelease's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus racemosus</i> <i>var. treleasei</i>	Sparsely vegetated sagebrush communities on shale or limestone outcrops and barren clay slopes at 6,500-8,200'
Cedar Rim thistle	<i>Cirsium aridum</i>	Barren, chalky hills, gravelly slopes, and fine textured, sandy-shaley draws 6,700-7,200'
large-fruited bladderpod	<i>Lesquerella macrocarpa</i>	Gypsum-clay hills and benches, clay flats, and barren hills 7,200-7,700'
Beaver Rim phlox	<i>Phlox pungens</i>	Sparsely vegetated slopes on sandstone, siltstone, or limestone substrates 6,000-7,400'
tufted twinpod	<i>Physaria condensata</i>	Sparsely vegetated shale slopes and ridges 6,500-7,000'

Vegetation

General Description

Most plants found on the Snake River floodplain are intricately related to sediment deposition and water discharge patterns over time. Sediment deposition provides the substrate (soil) for plants, while water levels relative to sediment surfaces provide water for growth of established plants and seed germination (Merigliano 1996).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed generalized categories in which to group the vegetation cover types of the Snake River in Jackson Hole. These are: Riparian Forested, Riparian Shrubland, Riparian Grassland, Upland and Palustrine, and Riverine. While all of these types may occur to some degree along the river reaches under BLM's jurisdiction, the principal cover type is the Riparian Forested.

The Riparian Forested cover type within the river corridor is dominated by a narrow-leaf cottonwood riparian complex. Common riparian plants found along the Snake River include:

- Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)
- goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*)
- Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)
- licorice root (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*)
- lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*)
- narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*)
- quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*)
- reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*)
- silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*)
- subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)
- water birch (*Betula occidentalis*)
- western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- western wheatgrass (*Elymus smithii*)
- yellow willow (*Salix lutea*).

This vegetation screens much of the river corridor from human intrusions and alterations. However, land uses are occurring along much of the river's edge which are altering the natural vegetation.

Condition

In 1990, the USFWS predicted a declining trend for the cottonwood forests along the Snake River corridor due to a lack of overbank flooding necessary for new stand stimulation. Cover type mapping performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports this hypothesis. Long-term replacement of these stands depends on periodic habitat conditions caused by flooding and floodplain scouring. The declining trend in vegetation condition is likely to continue with the operation and maintenance of the flood-control levees.

Disturbances, such as maintenance and construction of levees, open large areas for colonization by opportunistic species. The disturbance reduces or eliminates other plant species and allows for exploitation of the resources present. The levees, and activities associated with them, create a corridor of disturbance that initiates a shift in the herbaceous species composition from one dominated by natives to one dominated by exotic (and noxious) weeds.

Noxious weeds common to the Snake River corridor include: spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*).

Present Use

The mature riparian forests are beneficial to many wildlife species. These stands provide hiding, nesting and thermal cover for a broad variety of birds and mammals. The vegetation communities provide forage for domestic livestock and for native wildlife. The cottonwood forests provide aesthetically pleasing stop-over areas for river floaters. Mushroom hunters search for morels under cottonwood stands during the spring and early summer.

Visual Resources

The Snake River and its cottonwood forest, backed by the Teton, Gros Ventre, and Snake River mountain vistas, provides some of the greatest scenic values in Wyoming. This scenery is also integral to the recreation and tourism-based economy of Jackson and Teton County. Several of the public land parcels provide views of the Grand Teton and other peaks in the Teton Range. The river and cottonwood forests provide scenic backdrop to many homes in the area.

A visual resource inventory and classification process was performed for the planning area as viewed from the riparian corridor of the Snake River, where most human activity on public lands occurs. A visual resource inventory provides 1) an inventory tool that portrays the relative visual quality of a landscape, and 2) a management tool that delineates visual protection standards by which surface disturbing activities may occur and establishes guidelines for the rehabilitation of existing projects, facilities and disturbances. The visual resource inventory and classification process is based upon a qualitative analysis of like scenery, as observed from appropriate distance zones and with consideration of the public's sensitivity to viewshed modification. The inventory unit for this RMP effort included the foreground-middle ground distance zone, as viewed from the riparian corridor. The public lands within this inventory unit were classified as visual resource inventory class II.

The visual resource management classes are assigned through decisions made in the RMP process. Visual resource management classes are determined with consideration for other natural resource values, land uses, and viewshed manageability. Land uses common to this inventory unit include light industrial, residential, commercial, agricultural, concentrated and dispersed recreation activities, and wildlife management. The objectives for visual resource classes are as follows:

- Class I: Preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- Class II: Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes should repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class III: Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract the attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class IV: Provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Watershed

The planning area is located in the upper reaches of the Columbia River Basin. The area includes approximately 23 miles of the Snake River, 4 miles of the Gros Ventre River, and associated wetlands.

Both rivers can provide sizeable amounts of water and sediment. The Snake River was traditionally a wide, sometimes braided channel with multiple overflow channels. The Jackson Lake Dam and the almost continuous levee system have altered the flow of water and sediment in the system to the point that the land form between the levees is rapidly changing. The levee system has reduced the river's access to many of its historic overflow channels. This has resulted in changes to the channel system, as well as changes in sediment and energy transport and distribution.

The Snake River Water Catchment above the confluence with the Gros Ventre River is larger and has a greater volume of flow than the Gros Ventre River (Table 3-8).

TABLE 3-8
WATER FLOW OF THE SNAKE AND GROS VENTRE RIVERS

USGS Water Monitoring Station	Water Catchment Area (mi ²)	Minimum Flow (Ft ³ /sec)	Mean Flow (Ft ³ /sec)	Maximum Flow (Ft ³ /sec)
Snake River at Moose WY - #13013650	1,697	3,720	4,010	4,360
Gros Ventre at Zenith WY - #13015000	683	1.2	91	287

The Jackson Lake Dam, originally constructed in 1910-1911, provides some moderating influence on flow fluctuations in the Snake River. It can also maintain high flows for extended periods of time. The Gros Ventre River has few significant artificial flow restricting structures, and thus has a more variable, but lower total volume, flow. The effect that this difference has upon sediment transport is unknown at this time.

The Snake River channel primarily consists of material from glacial outwash deposits from the upstream portion of the Snake, and landslide material from the Gros Ventre and other landslides located along the two rivers.

Prior to 1955, there were a few short, unconnected levees along the Snake River. There were some minor bank structures as early as 1947. Between 1955 and 1964, about 13 miles of continuous levees were constructed. The levee system was expanded in later years and levee construction continues, although at a slower rate. Currently, the system encompasses about 20 miles of channel. Land use and property values have virtually assured the maintenance and expansion of the levee system in the future.

Analysis of pre-1955 photographs suggests that approximately 1/4 of the land that is currently within the levee system consisted of wooded islands. The percentage of wooded islands between the levees is considerably less at this time. Many of the islands have been completely removed while others are actively eroding. There is little evidence of island building.

Within the levee system, the average slope of the river is about 18 to 25 feet of channel drop per mile of channel length. Up and down stream from the levee system the river is less steep, with channel drops averaging between 13 and 22 feet per mile. This results in an overall greater amount of kinetic energy within the leveed portions of the channel.

The higher energies within the leveed reaches of the river have created an overall erosion of the stream channel. If the movement of material between the levees was uniform, the overall loss of material would be about 0.85 feet between 1954 (prior to major levee construction) and 1988.

The distribution of the material between the levees is not even. Some areas have dropped while others have gained in elevation. Some stream reaches have shown a fluctuation in the elevation of the deepest portion of the channel (thalweg) varying from 7 feet below to 9 feet above the 1954 survey level. There are theories for this uneven distribution of material, the most likely being constrictions within the channel restricting the flow of bedload material. Continued building up of the gravel substrate in some portions of the river could create a risk of floods or damage to

highway bridges. The channel's shape is still changing, so it is not known if the current patterns will remain constant over time.

As a result of the high bed load and high flows, the thread of the river tends to switch channels frequently. This, in combination with the artificially confined nature of the channel, has created some concern for the remaining islands within the levee system as well as for the stability of the levee system itself. The Snake River Restoration Project has been proposed by Teton County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help address this situation.

The BLM manages a relatively small amount of land within the Wyoming portion of the Snake River corridor. This, in combination with the high percentage of private land, the levee system, and efforts to manipulate the channel within the levees suggests that the overall effect on water quality from activities taking place on BLM managed lands is minor in comparison to the potential presented by the surrounding lands. Recreation related activities and unauthorized dumping are the actions that are most likely to take place on BLM managed lands that could directly affect water quality. Sanitation facilities at key recreation sites and site visits to BLM parcels by land managers help to reduce negative impacts but cannot prevent all undesirable activities.

The Snake River on the BLM parcels was assessed for Proper Functioning Condition on August 15, 1996. On all parcels, the river was determined to be in nonfunctioning condition, primarily because the river levees prevent its access to its natural floodplain, prevent regeneration of the cottonwood stands along its banks, and channelize the flow.

The BLM parcels contain some lentic surface water features, such as oxbow lakes and wetlands, that have water tables closely tied to the stage of the river. These features are generally located away from the main recreation corridor. Within the levee system, movements of the main channel and efforts to restrain this movement can have a marked effect on the water quality of an individual water body through both erosion and stagnation behind newly constructed features. Given the comparatively small size of these water bodies, the effect that they have on water quality in the Snake River is most likely undetectable.

Water features that exist on BLM parcels outside of the levee system appear to have water levels closely tied to the level of the Snake River. Seeps and springs that have other water sources may exist but they are not immediately evident. Conditions of the water features outside the levees tend to be less disturbed than those within. Conditions also appear to be closely tied to the level of grazing and recreational activity associated with the area.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Assessment of the parcels for eligibility and suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act has been conducted. All the parcels on the Snake River were found to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system, due to their importance for recreation and wildlife habitat and valuable scenic qualities. However, the parcels were not found suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system, chiefly due to their small size and orientation along one side only of the river, leading to difficulty of managing them as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Wildlife and Fisheries

The ribbon of cottonwood riparian forest surrounded by sagebrush or open field creates extremely important habitat for a diversity of wildlife (Brinson, et al. 1981; Brockmann 1993; Cerovski, et al. 2001; Oneale 1993; Simpson, et al. 1982). The Snake River riparian corridor is a major migration route and breeding area for migratory songbirds and raptors (Minta and Campbell 1991a). The productivity of bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nests along the Snake River is credited for the recovery of the entire Greater Yellowstone region (Swenson, et al. 1986). This area is not identified as a major waterfowl flyway, though many species do nest or transition through the corridor (Bellrose 1976). The river corridor supports migration routes for elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), as well as limited crucial winter range for these species and the moose (*Alces shirasi*). The planning area includes two elk feedgrounds. Teton County (1994) identifies a variety of wildlife as “Species of Special Concern (SSC)” from the investigation conducted by Biota Research and Consulting, Inc. (Minta and Campbell 1991a,b). Some of these species are considered because of their dependence on the river for survival (obligates), others are chosen due to their use of a habitat which provides a range of desired conditions, i.e., cover, forage, a zone free of human disturbance or influence.

The wildlife resources are dependent on a functioning environment, which provides all of the elements for survival in the proper balance, and the riparian system is considered the most valuable (Bull 1977; Carothers and Johnson 1975). Human activities, i.e., “channel alteration, ground water pumping, surface diversion, impoundment, direct removal of riparian vegetation, alteration of flooding regimes, and urbanization...contaminants, recreation, grazing, and habitat fragmentation...” are having a detrimental impact to the riparian corridors of the Snake River which is resulting in degradation and losses of wildlife habitats (Cerovski, et al. 2001; USFWS 1986b, 1992). The current levee system has resulted in a reduction in riparian/wetland habitats which in turn is changing the composition of species (UW undated). Key to the survival of all the wildlife species that use the Snake River corridor for some or all of their life-cycle is the need for protection from encroachment by human factors, i.e., direct presence (close interactions, pets, off-road vehicle use), and human-made altering of the habitat (levees/channelization, fences, vegetative manipulations-tree/snag removal) (Bull 1977; Cerovski, et al. 2001; Edwards 1978; Minta and Campbell 1991a,b; Olendorff and Kochert 1992; Teton County 1994). The relationship of healthy, productive and diverse wildlife populations to their habitats is specifically recognized in the WGFD Strategic Plan (WGFD 1998). Within “Goal 1” of this Plan is the intent to “maintain and enhance terrestrial wildlife habitats...[and] minimize loss of habitats through protection....”

Terrestrial Resources - Avian

Over 400 avian fauna species have been documented in Wyoming, and 73 of these use riparian habitats (Cerovski, et al. 2001). Grand Teton National Park reports over 300 species of birds within its boundaries (NPS 1997). Grand Teton National Park has been “accepted, contacted but permission pending” for inclusion in the National Audubon Society’s Important Bird Area program which is confirmation of the avian values associated with the Yellowstone/Jackson ecosystem. The variety of birds throughout the planning area exceeds 150 species. Nearly 80% of these species breed along the Snake River corridor. The remaining species make use of the cottonwood-riparian habitat type for foraging and as an interlude on the spring and fall migrations, and some can be found as winter inhabitants. The vast majority (75%) of the avian species are classified as passerine or songbirds and over half of these are considered year-round

residents (USFWS 1990, 1991, 1992). The cottonwood-willow dominated lands of the riparian corridor are critical to sustaining avian biodiversity (Finch 1986; USFWS 1990). Degradation in the quantity and quality of avian habitats, principally riparian types, has led to declines in species diversity on a national scale (Olendorff and Kochert 1992; Pashley, et al. 2000). USFS (undated) notes that "24 of 53 avian species listed in the "blue list" were recorded during the summer of 1977 along the Snake River." This "blue list" is identified as a nationwide listing of birds with evidence of "population declines" as reported by the Audubon Society in the Journal of American Birds.

Protection for most avian species comes under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-711)(CFR 2001). Adherence to the MBTA and participation in various avian conservation programs was emphasized in Executive Order 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds* (66 FR [Federal Register] 3853), dated January 10, 2001. Federal agencies are directed to focus on such things as restoring and enhancing habitat as well as avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to migratory bird populations.

Raptors find the habitat along the Snake River corridor an ideal area for seasonal use, migration interludes and year-round dwelling (USFWS 1992). The foraging opportunities are plentiful for species that rely on a diet of fish, waterfowl, or small animals that occupy the riparian habitat. The cottonwood canopy provides excellent perching and nesting sites, and the heavier vegetated areas limit the amount of human disturbance. In the food-chain hierarchy, raptors are considered at the top among avian species and are a representative indicator species of environmental condition (USFWS 1999). "Habitat is the key to managing raptor populations!" (Olendorff and Kochert 1992). Protecting nesting habitat and ensuring an adequate, "uncontaminated" food supply is crucial to sustaining a raptor population (Redig 1979). Raptors that utilize the Snake River corridor include: falcons - American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), merlin (*F. columbarius*), prairie falcon (*F. mexicanus*), and the peregrine falcon (*F. Peregrinus*); hawks - red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Swainson's (*B. swainsonii*), sharp-tailed (*Accipiter striatus*), Cooper's (*A. cooperi*), and northern goshawk (*A. gentilis*); and owls - the western screech-owl (*Otus asio*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), and northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), and the great gray owl (*Stix nebulosa*) (COE 1989; USFWS 1990, 1991).

The fish-rich Snake River system provides an ideal habitat for the fish-dependant osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). This species in particular finds the partially dead or dead-standing trees along the river readily available for nesting and perching, though snags are valuable habitat components for other wildlife species (Bull 1977; Brockmann 1993; Miller 1977). Artificial nesting structures have been located along the river which serve as alternate, as well as convenient, nesting sites. The dependence of the osprey on the river system for most phases of its life-cycle is complicated by its vulnerability to human disturbance during nesting, incubation and the early nestling period. The impact seems to depend on the timing and frequency of human activity, and the degree to which the osprey habituate to the disturbance early in the mating cycle (Zarn 1974).

Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and the federally threatened bald eagle (see Threatened and Endangered section) are year-long residents. Golden eagles are observed more often outside of the flood-plain, while bald eagles use the riparian corridor extensively for nesting, perching and feeding (USFWS 1990, 1991).

The Snake River and its tributaries are prime habitats for resident and migratory waterfowl during spring/fall staging, breeding, nesting, brood rearing, and wintering (Fralick 1989). Duck species include the dabbling ducks: mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and American widgeon (*Mareca americana*); and the sea ducks: Barrow's goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), common goldeneye (*B. clangula*), ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*) and hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) (USFWS 1991). Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) find the islands along the Snake River which are not subject to inundation by high water to provide nesting habitat among log debris and willows, while affording protection from some predators (USFWS 1990). The most important nesting areas for Canada geese on the Snake River are south of the Wilson Bridge to the South Park Bridge, with an average of 2.0 pairs per mile (COE 1989; Fralick 1989; USFS undated; USFWS 1991). This area is a major fall staging and migration route (USFWS 1990). The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) (USFWS 1986a) states that habitat conservation, maintenance and improvement are imperative to succeed with the goals of the Plan. The overall North American population trend for waterfowl is showing a positive response (increasing or stable) to the management strategies of the NAWMP. By monitoring the population trends in specific wetland areas, it may be possible to detect factors which are or could adversely affect waterfowl, as well as other wildlife (USFWS 1998b).

Wading birds observed in the planning area include the greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*). Both species utilize beaver ponds and seasonally flooded emergent wetland habitats; cranes use these areas as suitable nesting habitat, and herons for a varied available diet of aquatic insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals (USFWS 1990, 1991). The surrounding hay meadows provide cranes with foraging areas. The southern planning area serves as a staging area for the crane's fall migration, and as a spring migration stopover. The National Elk Refuge, which adjoins the planning area, serves as a "major staging area" (USFWS 1990). The largest Wyoming great blue heron rookery is located in the South Park area (COE 1989; USFWS 1990). Freedom from human disturbance and sustained foraging areas are critical to maintaining a heronry (Minta and Campbell 1991b). Heron overwintering may occur in the planning area (USFWS 1990, 1991).

Terrestrial Resources - Mammals

Populations of small mammals are cyclic in nature, with densities varying by season. However, if sufficient habitat is available, populations are relatively high (Clark and Stromberg 1987). A diversity in vegetative cover-types found in viable riparian systems provides a preferred habitat for small mammals (Snyder 1980). Predators in the area, such as hawks, owls, long-tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*), red fox (*Vulpes vulva*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*) all prey on these small mammals.

The small mammal group includes the bats. Four species found in the planning area include the hoary (*Lasiurus cinereus cinereus*), the silver-haired (*Lasionycterus noctivagans*), the long-eared (*Myotis evotis evotis*), and the little-brown (*M. lucifugus carissima*). The abundance of insects along the riparian bottoms makes for a reliable food source for bats (USFWS 1990, 1991).

Furbearers found in the planning area include the mink (*Mustela vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Mink densities are low in the planning area. Muskrats inhabit ponds, oxbows, and spring creeks, and feed on aquatic vegetation. Their population numbers generally have not been considered a threat to maintaining

wetland habitat in Wyoming (Oneale 1993). This species is a harvested furbearer within and adjacent to the planning area (USFWS 1991).

The Snake River is identified as one of the most significant areas in Wyoming for the river otter (Rudd, et al. 1986; USFWS 1991), as it provides excellent denning (stream banks, beaver lodges, log jams and piles) and foraging habitat (pools and oxbows) with adequate populations of fish. Those reaches of the Snake River that are constrained by levees do not provide suitable otter habitat (COE 1989), thus the tributaries and areas free of human disturbance are more common locales (GTNP 2000b). Alterations in habitat, including "development of waterways for recreational or industrial uses" can adversely impact otter populations (NYROP 1984). Otters are protected by State law and are not harvested.

Beavers principally inhabit river tributaries, side channels and oxbows. They utilize the cottonwoods outside of the levee-system for constructing lodges and dams, while relying on the willow-shrub understory for food. Beaver activity has improved riparian/wetlands by retarding the effects of flood control projects. Where beaver ponds are created, there is an increase in wildlife biodiversity when the shrub and other riparian vegetation components are established (Olsen and Hubert 1994). This furbearer is harvested, with the annual take being controlled by the WGFD.

The elk population in the Jackson Hole area (which includes Yellowstone National Park) is one of the largest in North America, with a summer population up to 15,000 elk that inhabit over 1,000 square miles (COE 1989; USFWS 1990, 1991). Portions of the herd summer in southern Yellowstone National Park, then migrate south as far as 60 miles to their winter range (Clark 1981). The planning area north of the Wilson Bridge lies within the WGFD Jackson Elk Herd Unit (JE) while the area to the south is within the WGFD Fall Creek Elk Herd Unit (FCE). These herd units consist mostly of large areas outside the planning area. With the recommendations from the WGFD, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission sets big game population and annual harvest objectives. The elk herd population objective for JE is 11,029 animals, and the estimated post-2000 hunt population was 14,300 (WGFD 2001). The number of elk from the JE that use the planning area is low during the spring to fall seasons. The principal activity comes during the migration across parcels adjacent to Grand Teton National Park en route to and from the National Elk Refuge, which provides both natural and enhanced winter range with supplemental feeding over its 24,000 acres (USFWS 1991). Approximately one-quarter of the FCE inhabits the WGFD South Park Habitat Unit. The planning area south of the Wilson Bridge has some elk that summer primarily on private lands, but the principal summer range lies to the west in the surrounding mountains (USFWS 1991). The FCE objective is 4392 animals, with the estimated population at 4849, post-hunt 2000. The South Park elk feedground falls within the FCE (quota: 1000) and 1,112 animals were counted in 2000 (WGFD 2001). Elk move to the South Park feedground using BLM parcels south of the Wilson Bridge (Andrews 2000, personal observation). Elk parturition on BLM parcels in the planning area is not documented.

Moose are found throughout the Snake River planning area in the WGFD's Jackson Moose Herd (north of the Wilson Bridge) and Sublette Moose Herd (south of the Wilson Bridge) Units (JM and SM, respectively). There is a year-round population of moose in the river and creek bottoms, which increases during winter as moose migrate from the National Parks and surrounding National Forest land (NPS 2000). The WGFD has designated portions of each of these herd units as crucial winter range (Map 17). The JM population objective is 3,600 moose. Because only a small portion of the SM falls within the planning area, it is not feasible to assign a population

objective over this segment. However, the number of moose that use this stretch of the Snake River varies from 15-30, depending on the forage demand and winter conditions (Fralick 2002, personal communication). Moose densities (1982-89) range from 4.3 per mile in the SM to 6 per mile in the JM (USFWS 1990, 1991).

Mule deer herds in the planning area include the Jackson Deer Herd Unit (JD) which is north of Wilson Bridge and the Sublette Deer Herd Unit (SD) to the south. Most of the seasonal use is spring, summer and fall in both units (COE 1989; USFWS 1990). Only a small area in the JD includes designated crucial winter range (Map 17). Wintering areas outside of the planning area include the traditional west-facing slopes. The SD within the planning area contains very little crucial winter range, as the winter range for these deer is in the Green River basin; however, a few animals have been observed to over-winter (USFWS 1990; WGFD 2001). Mule deer migration patterns exhibit a movement through the planning area to winter ranges on the east side of the Snake River (USFWS 1991).

Some white-tailed deer (*O. virginianus*) have been observed in the Snake River drainage but their numbers are low and the animals are widely dispersed (USFWS 1990, 1991).

Pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) are not a common animal within the planning area. They use the flood plain and sagebrush benches of the Upper Snake River drainage, outside the planning area, during the summer (USFWS 1990).

Bison (*Bison bison*) in the Jackson Bison Herd (JB) inhabit the National Elk Refuge and uplands of Grand Teton National Park. The JB management population objective is 400 animals (winter population). The population in this herd was 552 during the winter of 2000-2001 (WGFD 2001). Bison would probably not be affected by this management plan.

Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) seasonal ranges lie outside of the planning area (WGFD 2001; USFWS 1990). The Jackson Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit would not be affected by this management plan. Big game crucial winter ranges are shown on Map 17.

Black bears are intermittent users in the planning area, principally in areas adjacent to Grand Teton National Park where there is a lower level of human disturbance (Minta and Campbell 1991b). Mountain lions are not likely users of the BLM parcels; they are rare in Grand Teton National Park, even in the appropriate habitat (GTNP 2000a). However, lions are present on the National Elk Refuge and occasionally in or near the town of Jackson. The actions of this management plan would not affect these species due to the diversity and size of their home ranges.

Terrestrial Resources - Amphibians and Reptiles

Forty-two varieties of amphibians and reptiles have been noted in Wyoming (Baxter and Stone 1980). Only a few have geographic ranges into the planning area: tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), Western (boreal) toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*), northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), Columbia spotted frog (*R. luteiventris*) [previously known as the spotted frog (*R. pretiosa*)], boreal chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata maculata*), wandering garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans vagrans*), valley garter snake (*T. sirtalis fitchi*), rubber boa (*Charina bottae*), and

bullsnake (*Pitophis melanoleucas*) (NPS 1997; USFWS 1990, 1991; Van Kirk, et al. 2000). As identified in Van Kirk, et al. (2000), "Amphibian population distribution and abundance may shed light on the health and connectedness of GYE [Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem] wetlands and riparian habitats."

Fisheries

The Snake River through Jackson Hole is designated as a Class 1 or blue-ribbon trout stream by the WGFD. This designation indicates that the river is of national importance as a trout stream. Among the many game and nongame fish species present, the indigenous fine-spotted cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki* ssp.2) is economically the most important species, as it is the major game fish sought by anglers in the Snake River. The fine-spotted cutthroat trout is a self-sustaining (naturally reproducing) subspecies found only in the Snake River drainage from Palisades Reservoir in Idaho, upstream to the headwaters in Yellowstone National Park. This wild stock maintains its current population by spawning in suitable habitat, regionally known as "spring creeks," without stocking of juvenile or adult fish to the river system. This trout supplies the major sport fishery in the Snake River, from Jackson Lake Dam down through the canyon area of the Snake River above Palisades Reservoir. Spring creeks cross BLM parcels 20 (Cottonwood Creek) and 23 (Butler Creek).

Spawning, rearing, and overwintering habitat are considered to be the major limiting factors for fine-spotted cutthroat trout. Most fine-spotted cutthroat trout spawning occurs during the period from March through June in the spring creeks that enter the river. Openings to many of these spring creeks are currently blocked by levees, making them inaccessible to the fish. Little or no spawning habitat exists in the main river due to large sediment bedloads and turbidity in the springtime flows (during the spawning period), human-induced modifications to the channel, and a cobble substrate that is typically too large for fine-spotted cutthroat trout spawning. Sloughs and side channels are important sources of rearing and overwintering habitat, particularly for young age classes of fine-spotted cutthroat trout.

The once braided, multi-channel system with its diverse adjacent habitats has been replaced with a single or double channel and cobbled shoreline. The value of the shoreline and the diversity of the braided river channel has changed significantly. As the leveed reach has become increasingly less diverse, overwintering habitat has become a significant limiting factor for some species. Survival through the harsh low-flow winter months is a critical life cycle period. Harsh winter temperatures and low flows limit fine-spotted cutthroat trout survival. During the winter months, trout can survive only in pools that provide protection from ice and predators. Winter predators such as bald eagles, river otters, and fish-eating waterfowl can easily prey on the trout within their restricted areas of habitation.

Other trout species found in this region of the river are less abundant. They include brook (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), rainbow (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown (*Salmo trutta*), and lake (*Salvelinus namaycush*) trout (which may pass through Jackson Lake Dam). Another game species that is apparently abundant but little utilized by anglers is mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*).

Nongame fish species include suckers (an important food source for bald eagles), and five species of the minnow (Cyprinidae) family. These are represented primarily by Utah suckers

(*Catostomus ardens*), Bonneville redbside shiners (*Richardsonius balteatus*), and sculpins (*Cottus* spp.). Small fish may be used as prey by fine-spotted cutthroat trout.

Levee construction and other human activities have led to significant decreases in the amount and quality of spawning, rearing, and overwintering habitat for aquatic species. Increases in these resource types will be needed to promote the future viability of game and nongame fish.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Threatened and Endangered Species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. [United States Code] 1513 *et seq.*), as amended. In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 50 CFR 17, the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) is listed as a Federally Endangered species; the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and the bald eagle are listed as Federally Threatened species; the whooping crane (*Grus americana*) and the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) are listed as Federally Endangered and Federally Threatened “nonessential experimental populations,” respectively.

The presence of Canada lynx is unlikely in the planning area due to the lack of suitable habitat (spruce/fir/late-seral conifer forest on slopes of 8-12 degrees), poor abundance of its principal prey species (the snowshoe hare [*Lepus americanus*] and red squirrel [*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*]) and the high level of human disturbance (Beauvais, et al. 2001; NPS 2000; Ruediger, et al. 2000). A single, radio-collared lynx (now deceased) had been documented to travel the area from the northern Bridger-Teton National Forest to the lower extent of the Wyoming Range but his location on parcels in this management plan is not confirmed (Laurion and Oakleaf undated). The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion on October 25, 2000, regarding the effects on Canada lynx of BLM land use plans. For those existing plans, the determination was made that there were no actions “likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the lynx.” The alternatives in this management plan are not expected to alter that determination.

The grizzly bear recovery zone, now identified as the “Primary Conservation Area” lies beyond the planning area (USFWS 1990, 1991, 2000). Due to the general lack of suitable forage in areas also free of high human disturbance, it is not anticipated that grizzly bears will inhabit the limited areas covered by this management plan (COE 1989; Moody, et al. 2002). In accordance with 50 CFR 17, if a grizzly bear encounter poses an immediate human threat, then the offending bear may be taken; actions other than killing may be required when the threat is not “immediate.”

Special protection is afforded the bald eagle through the Bald Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). Bald eagle reproduction along the Snake River corridor has been exceptional, with one area in the management plan being identified as “some of the most important eagle habitat on the entire upper Snake River” (WGFD 1993). From 1982-88, 6 bald eagle pairs located on the Snake River between Moose and the South Park bridge produced 50 young, or 41 percent of the total production (Minta and Campbell 1991b; Swenson, et al. 1986). Under the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (USFWS 1986b) the Upper Snake River (WY) Key Area is within Recovery Zone 18, which contained 17 nesting territories and a wintering population of 40-60 birds. The availability of food early in the nesting season, tree size in relationship to the surrounding trees, and areas where the river lacks restriction are factors in nest area selection (Swenson, et al. 1986; USFWS 1986b, 1990, 1991). Human disturbance is known to affect the entire nesting chronology: nest tree selection, nest building, breeding, egg laying and incubation, brood rearing

and fledging (GYBEWG 1996; Harmata 1989; Swenson, et al. 1986; USFWS 1986b). Fall and winter use includes both resident bald eagles and an influx of migrants (NPS 2000). Bald eagle food habits are highly dependent on the availability of fish, which account for over 60 percent of the annual diet (Harmata 1989; Swenson, et al. 1986). This food abundance also impacts reproductive success (GYBEWG 1996). Foraging success is influenced by the condition of the river (water turbidity, velocities), the quantity of fish occupying accessible river reaches, and the level of human disturbance on the river (floaters/rafters and those fishing) (Stalmaster 1976). Other food sources include ungulate carrion during the winter, and waterfowl during the spring runoff (COE 1989; Swenson, et al. 1986; USFWS 1986b).

Whooping cranes have been observed during the spring months in the river-bottom areas along the Snake River and Spring Creek and often accompany sandhill cranes when migrating, as both species utilize similar habitats: seasonally flooded wetlands, open water marshes, ponds, oxbows, upland meadows and irrigated hay fields (COE 1989; Lockman, et al. 1985; NPS 1997; USFWS 1991). The experimental flock that was established in 1975 at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho, is reported to have only 8 whooping crane survivors (USFWS 1995). It is possible that some of these birds are those occasionally observed in the planning area.

The gray wolf has been observed on the National Elk Refuge. Two monitored wolf packs are located east of the planning area on the Gros Ventre River and the northeastern corner of GTNP. Based on the occurrence of wolves following and killing elk on winter feedgrounds (USFWS, et al. 2002), it is possible that wolves could travel through some of the management parcels to reach either the National Elk Refuge or the WGFD South Park elk feedground. Nearly 90 percent of the wolf diet in this area is reported as elk. In accordance with 50 CFR 17.84, actions to control, or take, wolves in this population are specifically limited (USFWS 1998a). Based on the success of the wolf introduction program it is possible that the USFWS may consider "delisting" in 2003 (USFWS, et al. 2002).

BLM Sensitive Species List

In April 2001, BLM Wyoming prepared a Sensitive Species List and guidance for inclusion of these species "when undertaking actions on public lands" (BLM 2001). The intent of this List is to "ensure actions authorized, funded, or carried out by BLM do not contribute to the need for any species to become listed as a candidate, or for any candidate species to become listed as threatened or endangered." This List is in compliance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management, Release 6-121, January 19, 2001. Species on this list which might occur in the area of this plan include Mammal: long-eared myotis; Birds: trumpeter swan, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); and Amphibians: northern leopard frog and Columbia spotted frog (listed as spotted frog) (BLM 2001; USFWS 1990). Also on the list of species in the area of the Snake River corridor and the BLM's Sensitive Species List are the ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) (USFWS 1990). However, the appropriate habitats for these two species are not believed to occur in the planning area.

Trumpeter swans (*Olor buccinator*) are common winter residents in the planning area (USFWS 1990). Crucial winter habitat for trumpeter swans is primarily located downstream from the Wilson Bridge. The spring fed tributaries and wintering areas (South Park, Fish Creek, and Lower Flat Creek) account for nearly 35 percent of the swan winter-use areas, with Fish Creek

being the prime location (USFWS 1990, 1991; WGFD 1993). The planning area and surrounding river corridor areas included within Grand Teton National Park do not provide suitable nesting habitat for swans (COE 1989; NPS 1997).

The yellow-billed cuckoo is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (65 *FR* 8104). Breeding has been documented in Grand Teton National Park and the cottonwood-willow riparian corridor of the Snake River is suitable breeding habitat. However, selection of an area may depend on size (to as large as 100 acres) and an adequate food supply. Fragmentation of the cuckoo's habitat is a serious problem (Hughes 1999). The western United States population is being adversely impacted by a loss of riparian breeding habitat (USFWS 2001).

Information on the Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki* ssp²) is found in this chapter under the "Fisheries" section.

Human-Wildlife Interaction

Within the scope of the RMP is the goal to provide a quality recreational experience while protecting the varied wildlife and fragile habitats. Human-wildlife conflicts sometimes occur. In cases where these interactions pose a threat to human health and safety, it may be necessary to involve the WGFD or the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (WS) office to rectify the situation. The BLM and WS have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated April 3, 1995, to address potential conflicts. The MOU is updated through an annual Work Plan (WS and BLM 2002). The BLM parcels occur within designated Human Safety Zones as identified in the Work Plan, thereby restricting corrective measures to emergency situations. WS also has agreements with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and USFWS to take the actions necessary when human health and safety are a concern in dealing with predators or threatened and endangered species (WS and BLM 2002). Whenever possible, a non-lethal resolution to the conflict is the preferred outcome.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the environmental consequences of management actions described in Chapter 2. Both beneficial and adverse effects (impacts) are described.

Assumptions used in analyzing the environmental consequences are described in this chapter and are based on previous events, experience of personnel, and knowledge of the resources in the planning area.

Impacts described in this chapter are estimates based on the alternatives. In some cases, existing data were used; in others, very little data were available. Lack of data has contributed a degree of uncertainty to the impact estimates. The alternatives, however, include professional judgments and projections of anticipated actions and levels that provide an adequate and reasonable range for analysis.

This chapter addresses impacts to all resource elements for each particular alternative. As in Chapter 2, the impacts related to the Preferred Alternative are listed first. Actions Common to All Alternatives were taken into account in analyzing the impacts for each alternative. In addition, impact causes and relationships common to all alternatives are included within this analysis.

For the purpose of analysis, short-term impacts described in this document are those that would last less than 10 years; long-term impacts would last 10 years or more. Irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources and unavoidable adverse effects are discussed in the analysis if they would occur. Similarly, effects on a given environmental component caused by a particular management action are discussed if they would occur. Otherwise, such effects are not discussed.

The following resources are not present in the planning area and are not addressed in this RMP EIS: Prime and Unique Farmlands, Wilderness, Wild Horses, and Forestry (marketable timber). In addition, no areas have been determined to meet the criteria for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or other special management area designation.

ASSUMPTIONS AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Assumptions used for analysis of environmental consequences are listed in Table 4-1.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT	<p>Cooperation with USDA Forest Service, DEQ, and EPA on monitoring for acid rain and its impacts on the Class I airshed of affected wilderness areas would continue at the 8 NADP stations in Wyoming, and at the lake chemistry sampling sites in the Bridger and other wildernesses.</p> <p>The Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program would be continued at the 4 IMPROVE stations in Wyoming and at WDEQ visibility stations.</p> <p>The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division would monitor and enforce compliance with Wyoming air quality regulations.</p>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Preserved prehistoric cultural resource sites are rare in the Snake River corridor because of the recent age of the floodplain deposits and sediments. Sites may be more common on public lands outside the levees and on higher lands away from the river.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All cultural resources may be lost to effective management if transfer out of Federal ownership occurs. However, Class III cultural resource inventory and National Register evaluation would precede any potential transfers.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
FIRE MANAGEMENT	Most wildfires on public lands could burn 5 acres or less before being suppressed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Prescribed fire would not be used.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT</p> <p><i>Conservation Easements</i></p>	<p>Interest in protecting open spaces through the use of conservation easements would increase.</p> <p>The use of conservation easements would probably not be necessary as public entities would acquire the lands, retain them, and agree to manage them according to BLM management prescriptions.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Any parcels sold to private individuals could be developed in the future, as no conservation easements would be retained.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Parcels sold or transferred from BLM ownership would not be developed, as conservation easements would be retained.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p><i>Land Ownership Adjustment</i></p>	<p>All the public land parcels would be transferred to other government or public agencies. The parcels would be retained by those agencies or entities and managed for public access, recreation, open space, and wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Most of the public land parcels would remain in BLM ownership. A few parcels could be transferred to other local, state, or Federal agencies or sold to private individuals. Transfer or sale of the parcels would be conducted only if public benefits would ensue.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>All the public land parcels would be transferred or sold out of BLM ownership. The likelihood is high that the parcels would end up in private ownership even if initially transferred to other government agencies.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued)</p> <p><i>Land Ownership Adjustment (Continued)</i></p>	<p>Private demand to purchase the parcels is high. Government agencies are interested in some parcels, but not all of them. Some entities, including Teton County, are interested in the parcels in order to extract gravel.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Private demand to purchase the parcels would be very high. Government agencies are interested in some parcels, but not all of them. Some entities, including Teton County, are interested in the parcels in order to extract gravel.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>Other government or public agencies or entities could be found to acquire all the parcels and agree to retain them in public ownership and manage them for public access, recreation, open space, and wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Most of the public land parcels would be retained by the BLM.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Most or all of the parcels would end up in private ownership, and be closed to public access. Some would be developed as homesites.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Actual use by livestock on public lands in the planning area was 300 AUMs during the 1999 base year for analysis.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Continued)	Livestock grazing may or may not be allowed by the entities that acquire the parcels.	The estimated livestock grazing use on public lands in the planning area would be about 300 AUMs annually.	Livestock grazing use on public lands could increase to about 1000 AUMs annually if grazing were permitted on all BLM parcels.	No AUMs would be used for livestock grazing.	The public or private parties that acquire the parcels would not allow livestock grazing.	The estimated livestock grazing use on public lands in the planning area would be about 300 AUMs annually, or less if some leases are cancelled.
	The elk feedground at South Park, and high populations of elk within the Snake River corridor, could present a brucellosis risk to livestock on public lands. Weed treatments could improve forage for livestock on public land.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	This would not affect public lands management, as there would be no livestock grazing.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
MINERALS MANAGEMENT <i>Geothermal</i>	No geothermal development is anticipated.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar effect, as no livestock grazing would be permitted.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Locatable Minerals</i>	The potential for occurrence of economically viable locatable mineral deposits is low, although there are small amounts of flour gold in the Snake River.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative; there could be some small-scale recreational gold panning in the Snake River.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Oil and Gas</i>	Public lands and mineral estate would not be leased for oil and gas exploration and development.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Public lands outside the Snake River corridor could be leased for oil and gas exploration and development with the result that 1 or 2 exploratory wells may be drilled during the analysis period.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All federal mineral estate would be retained in federal ownership.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Salable Minerals</i>	The demand for sand and gravel in the planning area (on lands of all ownership) would increase during the analysis period because of the county's high growth rate and construction and maintenance needs. During the analysis period, the demand for sand and gravel in the planning area (on lands of all ownership) would exceed 500,000 cubic yards per year. If the demand for sand and gravel exceeds local supply, road construction costs would increase because of the greater haul distances involved.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
		Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
MINERALS MANAGEMENT (Continued) <i>Salable Minerals (Continued)</i>	The COE would continue to obtain sand, gravel, and riprap, from public lands for levee maintenance. The Snake River Restoration project, now in the planning stage, would begin in 2002.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No gravel would be extracted from federal mineral estate for any purpose.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
MISCELLANEOUS LAND USES	Protective measures would be applied to public land parcels as conditions of land and resource use to (a) minimize soil movement; (b) minimize disturbance of vegetation in sensitive areas such as riparian areas; (c) protect important cultural and paleontological resources, recreational values, and wildlife resources; and (d) protect visual quality.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
REASONABLY FORSEEABLE DEVELOPMENT	No development of leasable minerals on split estate would occur in the foreseeable future.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	One or two oil or gas wells could be developed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-1 ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE						
Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
REASONABLY FORSEEABLE DEVELOPMENT (Continued)	No locatable mineral development would take place.	Development of locatable minerals on federal mineral estate would be minimal in the areas where it is permitted.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
RECREATION MANAGEMENT	The allocation of use by other federal agencies would impact or affect the recreational demand for use of BLM-administered lands. During the analysis period, growth in the demand for recreation in the planning area is expected to increase. BLM regulations would not apply after parcel transfer.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	There would be no recreational access to the parcels after transfer or sale.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING LAND USES	The resident population of Teton County in 2000 was about 18,251 (Census 2000, Jackson Hole News, 3/28/2001).	BLM regulation and policy requires recreation use to protect natural resources and public health. Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	BLM regulations would not apply after parcel sale.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING LAND USES (Continued)	The majority of county residents live within the Snake River RMP EIS planning area boundaries.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	During the 1999 base year for analysis, noxious weeds occurred on all the public land parcels. Flooding, sufficient to cause cottonwoods to regenerate by seed, would not occur on most public lands in the Snake River corridor.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Weed treatments should improve forage production.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Activities associated with levee maintenance and construction could increase the spread of noxious weeds.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	Interest in protecting open spaces through the use of conservation easements should increase during the analysis period.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	<p>Levees would continue to be maintained. New levee construction could occur on about 9 miles of privately owned riverbank during the analysis period.</p> <p>The Snake River levee system would continue to cause erosion in the river bed and along the banks by concentrating the flow of water in a small channel and increasing the river's velocity. The BLM-administered public lands in the river corridor would continue to change in size and shape because of erosion and deposition and channel movement.</p>	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT	The lands would no longer be subject to the Wyoming Standards and Guidelines after transfer or sale.	Meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands is intended to maintain or improve biological and structural diversity in vegetative communities. Meeting these objectives should, in turn, maintain or improve the biological diversity of wildlife.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	
	Weed treatments should improve forage production.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All wildlife species react to human interaction. The level of reaction, e.g., internal stress, flush/flee, and the physical distance at which a reaction will occur is a function of the species and/or the individual animal.	Human presence on accessible parcels would increase. Human presence on isolated parcels would remain low.	Human presence on accessible parcels would increase. Human presence on isolated parcels that may be transferred or sold would remain low.	Same as Alternative B.	Human presence on the parcels would be reduced as they are sold into private ownership.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

**TABLE 4-1
ASSUMPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Continued)	<p>Parcels would be retained for public use and not developed.</p> <p>Riparian habitats typically contain a disproportionate number of plant and animal species compared to other vegetative communities. Maintaining riparian areas in a properly functioning condition would stabilize watersheds and maintain wildlife associated with riparian areas.</p>	<p>Parcels would not be developed unless wildlife impacts could be mitigated.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Development may occur on isolated parcels that may be transferred or sold.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Development activity may occur on the parcels after sale into private ownership.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The comparative analysis of environmental consequences of the alternatives is found in Table 4-2.

For the Preferred Alternative and Alternative D, the impact analysis is focused on those impacts that would occur after the parcels are transferred or sold out of BLM ownership.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT	Noise and airborne dust would result from the use of motorized vehicles along levees and at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site, and from the mining of sand and gravel.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, noise and dust would be reduced. Some noise and dust could be generated by vehicles transporting sand and gravel into the planning area from other areas.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, noise and dust could be reduced since public vehicle access to the river could be lost. However, uses by future landowners may cause similar impacts.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Noise, dust, and vehicle emissions would be increased by truck traffic on highways if it is necessary to haul gravel in from outside the valley.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	This impact would be less as more gravel would be available from the public lands.	This impact could be greater, as no gravel would be available from the public lands in the planning area.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Noise and dust would increase if additional river access or recreation sites are developed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The effects of noise and dust would be local and temporary, lasting a few minutes as vehicles travel along levees, and during periods of active sand and gravel mining.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The relatively minor effects of noise and dust would be local and temporary. There would be no dust or noise generated from sand and gravel mining.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Smoke from campfires at primitive campgrounds would affect air quality on a local basis during the summer.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES	<p>The inventory and protection of cultural resources would prevent unintentional damage to these resources from surface-disturbing activities. New information about these resources would be acquired through detailed inventories.</p> <p>Permits issued for the scientific study of cultural resources on public lands would ensure that important sites are protected and new scientific information is made available to the public.</p> <p>The use of minimum-impact suppression techniques for fighting wildfires would protect some cultural resources from surface-disturbing activities.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>The required inventory and study of cultural resources before parcel sale would add time and expense to the disposal of the parcels. New information about these resources would be acquired through detailed inventories.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES (Continued)	There would be no adverse effects on identified significant cultural or natural history resources from the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands. Any unidentified significant cultural or natural history resources could suffer adverse effects from the sale, exchange or transfer of public lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Inventories conducted for proposed surface-disturbing activities or proposed land transfers out of Federal ownership would identify any potentially threatened sites. Significant sites would be either avoided or mitigated as appropriate.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative. The potential for discovery of significant sites would be lost when the parcels are sold.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Interpretive signs could increase public appreciation for, and the protection of, cultural resources, if used by the acquiring agencies and/or entities.	No similar impact.	The use of interpretive signs could increase public appreciation for, and the protection of, rare and sensitive resources.	Compared to Alternative B, the beneficial effects could be greater because of the added emphasis on interpretive signs.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Land Use or Resource CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES (Continued)	Sporadic unauthorized collection of cultural resources would take place. Inventories conducted for proposed surface-disturbing activities would mitigate the loss of data to some extent. Unauthorized collection will always result in some loss of data.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, greater visitor use associated with river floating and visits to recreational sites would increase the potential for unauthorized collecting.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
FIRE MANAGEMENT	Aerial fire retardants would most likely not cause adverse changes in watershed function or water quality. The use of aerial fire suppressants has the potential to produce short-term local changes in the level of nutrients in adjacent waters. Avoiding application of aerial fire retardants to open waters, and the relatively large amount of dilution that can be provided by the discharge of the Snake River, would most likely reduce this effect further in terms of concentration and duration.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative. After parcel sale, Teton County would make the decisions regarding fire retardant use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
FIRE MANAGEMENT (Continued)	<p>The use of surfactants and foaming agents for fire suppressing activities has the potential to produce local changes in water quality. However, the level of dilution that could be provided by the Snake River, the rapid biological breakdown of the agents, and the practice of avoiding direct application of surfactant or foam solutions to open waters would most likely reduce concentrations to acceptable levels.</p> <p>There would be some potential for wildfires due to human activities on the public land parcels.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>There would be some potential for wildfires due to human activities on the public land parcels.</p>	<p>More potential for wildfires because the area is open to OHV use.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Potential for wildfires from unauthorized camping would be reduced.</p>	<p>The risk of wildfires from human activities would be lessened as public access is lost; however, the activities of future landowners could also lead to a risk of fire.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>The use of campfires at campgrounds would increase the risk of wildfire.</p>	<p>No risk of wildfire from campgrounds.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Opportunities for the management of public areas by Teton County, or jointly by the county, state, and(or) federal agencies, would increase; this increase would be greater than under other alternatives.</p> <p>Landownership adjustments would not affect the level of public use of lands within the Snake River corridor.</p>	<p>Opportunities for the management of public areas by Teton County, or jointly by the county, state, and(or) federal agencies, would increase to a lesser extent.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Opportunities for the management of public areas by Teton County, or jointly by the county, state, and(or) federal agencies, would increase.</p> <p>Landownership adjustments could reduce the level of public use of some lands within the Snake River corridor, although this effect would be mitigated where recreation easements are retained, or offset by the consolidation of public lands in areas of high recreational use.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Opportunities for the management of public areas by Teton County, or jointly by the county, state, and(or) federal agencies, could increase.</p> <p>Landownership adjustments would reduce the level of public use of some lands within the Snake River corridor. Generally, use would become more congested on adjacent public lands, as long as they are available. Eventually, all public use areas could be lost.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Private sales could eliminate these opportunities. Potential for all access onto current public parcels to be lost.</p> <p>This alternative is less appropriate to meet the requirements of Environmental Justice.</p>
<p>By retaining public lands for public use, this alternative would help to ensure affordable recreational opportunities for low-income residents of Teton County. This alternative is appropriate to meet the requirements of Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898).</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>This alternative is less appropriate to meet the requirements of Environmental Justice.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (Continued)	The posting of informational and directional signs could enhance recreational experiences and reduce trespass, if acquiring agencies or entities choose to erect the signs.	Lack of signing would result in continued confusion about the location of public lands, inappropriate resources uses, and trespass.	The posting of informational and directional signs to identify public lands with public access would enhance recreational experiences, protect resources, and reduce trespass.	Same as Alternative B.	Impacts to natural resources may occur. Private lands trespass would be more likely.	Same as Alternative B.
	The level of public use would decline seasonally on public lands that are developed for sand and gravel mining.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, the decline of public use would be greater and more use would be concentrated on adjacent public lands.	Public use would not be impacted by sand and gravel mining on public lands or mineral estate.	Same as Preferred Alternative	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Attempts to resolve occupancy trespass through removal would be difficult and may result in litigation.	Trespass resolution would be less difficult than under the Preferred Alternative, as the authorized officer would have more options for resolution.	The option of resolving agricultural or occupancy trespass on public land through land sales or exchanges could encourage these unauthorized land uses.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT	There could be some temporary reductions in forage from certain allowed surface-disturbing activities such as development of rights-of-way. Following reclamation of these areas, forage production would return to pre-disturbance levels.	Temporary reductions in forage would be greater than under the preferred alternative as more surface-disturbing activities would be allowed. Following reclamation of disturbed areas, forage production would return to pre-disturbance levels.	Temporary reductions in available forage from surface-disturbing activities would be the greatest of all alternatives. Following reclamation of these areas, forage production would return to pre-disturbance levels.	Temporary forage reductions would not impact livestock as no grazing would be permitted.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
LIVESTOCK GRAZING (Continued)	<p>The transfer of parcels could cause a reduction in livestock grazing, if grazing is determined to be incompatible with the uses to be established by the acquiring agencies or entities.</p> <p>Recreational use could cause conflicts with livestock grazing, if grazing continues to be allowed after transfer of the parcels. No similar impact if livestock grazing is not allowed.</p> <p>The prohibition of some forms of predator control on public lands to protect the safety of recreational users and their pets could result in livestock losses to predators. However, these effects would be minimal.</p>	<p>The potential transfer of parcels could cause a reduction in livestock grazing, if grazing is determined to be incompatible with the uses to be established by the acquiring agencies or entities.</p> <p>Recreational use could cause minor conflicts with livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Recreational use could cause conflicts with livestock grazing, although the potential for this would be reduced by the posting of signs at boat and river access sites with information on safety, river etiquette, and minimum impact recreation.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be reduced by 300 AUMs on 620 acres of land that is currently grazed by livestock.</p> <p>Recreational use would not impact livestock grazing on public land parcels.</p>	<p>Transfer and sale of all the parcels would reduce the acreage available for livestock grazing. Potentially, all the parcels could be removed from livestock grazing use.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A, although this impact could disappear if the lands are sold and no longer available for recreation or livestock grazing use.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Continued)</p>	<p>Continued suppression of all fires would affect the vegetation and possibly the grazing capacity of the parcels.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Changes in the vegetation and grazing capacity of the parcels would not impact livestock as no grazing would be permitted.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>A long-term withdrawal to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims would keep land undisturbed for livestock grazing and other purposes.</p>	<p>Possible mining development could make lands unavailable for livestock grazing, to a lesser extent than under Alternative B.</p>	<p>Possible mining development could make lands unavailable for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>Minor conflicts between campground development and livestock use could occur, if these uses are allowed by the agencies or entities that acquire the parcels.</p>	<p>There would be no impacts to campgrounds on public lands from livestock grazing (no campgrounds under this alternative).</p>	<p>Campground development would conflict with livestock grazing due to loss of acreage as cattle are fenced out.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Uses specified by the new parcel owners would control the potential impacts. There would be no conflicts with public livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Requirements to blend livestock management structures on public lands with the landscape could increase operator costs, if livestock grazing is allowed by the agencies or entities that acquire the parcels.</p>	<p>Modifying livestock management structures or range improvements to blend with the landscape could increase costs and reduce options for livestock management.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>No impact on livestock on public lands as no grazing would be permitted. However, requirements to modify livestock management structures, particularly fences on the public land parcels, could affect management of livestock on adjacent private lands.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
MINERAL RESOURCES	<p>There would be no effects related to the management prescriptions for geothermal energy, phosphate, sodium, and coal because these resources are not anticipated to exist in commercial amounts on public lands in the planning area.</p> <p>There would be no development of oil and gas in the planning area from public lands.</p> <p>2,890 acres of public land and mineral estate included in PLO 7143 (Map 10) would be closed to locatable mineral entry.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
		<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>There would be potential for oil and gas development from one or two wells.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
		<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Public lands and mineral estate inside the area included in PLO 7143 (Map 10) (2,890 acres) would be opened to locatable mineral development after June 1, 2005. Small scale recreational gold panning and dredging could take place on public lands within the Snake River channel. The discovery of commercial amounts of gold is not anticipated.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
MINERAL RESOURCES (Continued)	12,233 acres of public lands and federal mineral estate outside the PLO area would be closed to locatable mineral entry.	Public lands and federal mineral estate outside the area included in PLO 7143 (12,233 acres) would be available for locatable mineral development. (Map 10)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Longer haul distances for gravel would result in more truck traffic and potential for accidents, both to other motorists and to wildlife crossing highways.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	This impact would be less, as more gravel extraction from the public lands would be allowed.	This impact would be greater, as no gravel would be available from public lands in the planning area.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES	Motorized access to certain parcels and levees would be prohibited. The opportunity to recreate on public lands by a small portion of the public would be foregone. Recreational use would decrease on some parcels.	Motorized access to the parcels would be the greatest under this alternative; however, some parcels would still be inaccessible to motorized vehicles.	Compared to alternative A, motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities would be less. The loss of this opportunity would be minimal since the public lands parcels are small and access is limited.	Motorized access to certain parcels and levees would be prohibited. The opportunity to recreate on public lands by a small portion of the public would be foregone. Recreational use would decrease on some parcels.	The opportunity for public use of motorized OHVs on public lands would be foregone.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Sand and gravel operations in the river channel would not impact vertebrate fossils.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	There is a small potential that sand and gravel operations outside the active river channel could impact vertebrate fossils.	There would be no impact from sand and gravel extraction on fossils.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Continued)</p>	<p>Permits issued for the scientific study of paleontological resources on public lands would ensure that important sites are protected and new scientific information is made available to the public.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>No similar impact. There is a very small chance that significant paleontological resources could be lost to the public with parcel sales.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>There would be no adverse effects on identified significant paleontological resources from the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands. Any unidentified significant paleontological resources would suffer adverse effects from the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>The use of minimum-impact suppression techniques for fighting wildfires could protect some paleontological resources from surface-disturbing activities.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>There is a small change that paleontological resources could be affected, as BLM restrictions would not apply.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Continued)	Sporadic unauthorized collection of paleontological resources would take place. Inventories conducted for proposed surface-disturbing activities would mitigate the loss of data to some extent. Unauthorized collection will always result in some loss of data.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, greater visitor use associated with river floating and visits to recreational sites would increase the potential for unauthorized collecting, although the potential for finding significant vertebrate fossils is very low.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
RECREATION	Landownershship adjustments would not affect the level of public use of lands within the Snake River corridor.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Landownershship adjustments could increase the level of public use and access to some lands within the Snake River corridor, through the acquisition of lands for public access and improved recreation opportunities. Access to some remote parcels could be lost.	Same as Alternative B.	Landownershship adjustments could eliminate public use of lands within the Snake River corridor.	Landownershship adjustments could reduce the level of public use of some lands within the Snake River corridor, although this effect may be mitigated where recreation easements are retained or offset by the consolidation of public lands in areas of high recreational use.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	Information and directional signs posted on public lands where appropriate could enhance recreational experiences and reduce trespassing on private lands, if the signs are used by the acquiring agencies and/or entities.	Confusion about parcel location and appropriate uses would continue.	Information and directional signs posted on all public lands may enhance the recreational experience and reduce trespass.	Same as Alternative B.	Public access to the parcels would be lost; signs would not be necessary.	Information and directional signs posted on public lands where appropriate could enhance recreational experiences and reduce trespassing on private lands.
	The benefits listed for Alternative A would be realized if the managing agency or entity develops boat access at South Park (parcel 26).	The development of boating access at South Park (parcel 26) would improve vehicle access, reducing traffic hazards. Visitor experience would be enhanced with improved facilities and river access.	Same as Alternative A.	The traffic hazards associated with the existing public access (located on private land) would remain the same.	No recreation access after parcel disposal, thus no related traffic hazards.	Same as d Alternative A.
	If recreation easements are acquired by the managing agency or entity, they would enhance recreation opportunities and public access.	No similar impact.	The acquisition of recreation easements through the sale or exchange of public lands would enhance recreation opportunities and public access.	No similar impact.	No similar impact.	Same as Alternative B.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	Withdrawal of the federal mineral estate from locatable minerals development after June 1, 2005 provides for long-term protection of recreation opportunities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Lands not withdrawn from the federal mineral estate for locatable minerals after June 1, 2005 are at risk for staking and development. Some long-term recreation opportunities may be forgone if lands are not withdrawn.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No recreation access after parcel disposal.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The closure of federal lands and mineral estate in the planning area to oil and gas leasing would ensure long-term recreation benefits would not be impacted by oil and gas development.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The development of oil and gas extraction on federal lands and mineral estate outside the Snake River corridor could create some long-term impacts to recreation facilities and opportunities, although closure of the river corridor to leasing for oil and gas would preserve most recreation benefits.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No recreation access after parcel disposal.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The closure of leasing on federal lands and mineral estate in the planning area for phosphate, sodium and other leasable minerals would ensure long-term recreation benefits would not be impacted by development of these minerals.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The development of phosphate, sodium, and other leasable minerals on federal lands and mineral estate in the planning area could create long-term impacts to recreation facilities and opportunities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No recreation access after parcel disposal.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	<p>The closure of federal lands and mineral estate in the planning area for geothermal leasing would ensure long-term recreation benefits would not be impacted by geothermal development.</p> <p>Recreational use could decline on public lands that are developed for sand and gravel mining. With mitigation, impacts to recreation would be low.</p> <p>Industrial vehicle access across public lands for mining sand and gravel would reduce the quality of recreational experiences and increase hazards to public health and safety. With mitigation and seasonal restrictions these impacts would be minimal.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Recreational use could decline on public lands that are developed for sand and gravel mining.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Compared to Alternative A, the decline in public use would be greater. More recreational use could be concentrated on adjacent public lands.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>There would be no impact on recreational use from salable mineral development on public land or mineral estate.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p> <p>No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p> <p>No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	<p>Plans of operations submitted for saleable mineral exploration and development must address the protection of natural resource values. Mitigation of recreation impacts could be stipulated.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>No similar impact, as no minerals could be developed.</p> <p>The prohibition on the use of motorized vehicles, except at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site, would make some levee pathways and fishing areas inaccessible to people unable to travel without mechanized transportation. Recreational experiences for boaters and hikers, by comparison, would improve.</p>	<p>No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p> <p>No similar impact. No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	The quality of recreational experience would likely deteriorate without recreation management (e.g., education, signing, regulating use levels).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative E. Public benefits for river floating and upland activities may increase as management prescriptions emphasize expanding facilities and services to meet public demand.	Same as Alternative E except that public benefits for river floating and upland activities may decrease as management prescriptions emphasize reducing public use to protect wildlife habitat.	No recreation access after parcel disposal.	The quality of recreational experience would improve as management provides services, resolves conflicts, regulates use for desired future conditions developed through the Limits of Acceptable Change process (LAC), and provides for the protection of natural resources.
	Commercial floating opportunities would be improved.	The commercial floating experience would decline.	The benefits enjoyed from commercial recreation use would continue.	Same as Alternative B.	Commercial floating use may continue, but would not be regulated by the BLM.	Same as Alternative B.
	The maintenance of the Wilson Bridge river access would provide continued enjoyment of recreation opportunities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Public benefits of the Wilson boat ramp could be lost.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The development of facilities at the South Park location would enhance recreational experiences.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The improvement of visitor facilities at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site and the development of facilities at the South Park location would enhance recreational experiences.	No similar impact.	No recreation access after parcel disposal.	Same as Alternative B.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
RECREATION (Continued)	<p>Adverse effects on public safety would be mitigated by development of a boat and river access site in the South Park area, which would include improvements made to the exit off U.S. Highway 191.</p> <p>Recreation facilities and services would be maintained by the managing agency or entity. Impacts are likely to be similar to Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Facilities and services would continue to be minimally maintained through agreements with Teton County.</p> <p>The quality of recreational experience may decrease.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>The implementation of an access fee program would allow for the enhancement of visitor services and facilities. A fee system may deter or eliminate recreational use by some of the public.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B except that the choice of contributing to user services would be voluntary.</p> <p>Revenue income for recreation management and natural resource protection would be uncertain.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p> <p>No recreation access after parcel disposal.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
	<p>Benefits could be realized if the managing agencies and/or entities develop additional boating access.</p>	<p>The Wilson Bridge and South Park river access facilities would remain congested, as no other access facilities would be developed.</p>	<p>Added river boating access facilities could provide an enhanced recreational experience.</p>	<p>The Wilson Bridge boat ramp would remain very congested, as no other access facilities would be developed.</p>	<p>Public river access may be lost after parcel disposal.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
	<p>The benefits of authorized camping could be realized if the managing agencies and/or entities develop camping facilities.</p>	<p>Some unauthorized camping would occur along the Snake River corridor. Authorized camping opportunities would be forgone.</p>	<p>Unauthorized camping would be reduced because camping would be allowed in designated campgrounds on public lands.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
SOCIO-ECONOMICS	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, the Preferred Alternative is superior to Alternatives A, B, and D, inferior to Alternative C, and equal to Alternative E.	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, Alternative A is inferior to the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives C and E, and superior to Alternatives B and D.	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, Alternative B is inferior to the Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A, C, and E; and superior to Alternative D.	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, Alternative C is superior to the Preferred Alternative and all other alternatives.	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, Alternative D is inferior to the Preferred Alternative and all other alternatives.	Given the importance of land disposal issues, protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, minerals management, and the management of recreation to the Willingness to Pay (WTP) considerations, Alternative E is equal to the Preferred Alternative, superior to Alternatives A, B, and D, and inferior to Alternative C.
VEGETATION	Stipulations and management actions implemented to protect other resources could prevent surface disturbances and protect vegetation and Special Status Plant Species.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities could cause a loss of vegetation and an increase in weeds.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued)	<p>The absence of flooding outside the levees, the exclusion of fire, and late season grazing by livestock and wildlife (during the fall and early winter) would inhibit cottonwood regeneration. The cottonwood-dominated community would change to a shrub-grass or conifer community with time.</p> <p>Increases in public access or facilities (e.g., South Park access site) could cause the removal of vegetation and the increase of weeds.</p> <p>The resolution of agriculture or occupancy trespass and subsequent reclamation could benefit native vegetation in the long term.</p> <p>Elimination of fall livestock grazing would allow for an increase in shrub production and diversity of understory habitats in cottonwood stands.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>The absence of flooding outside the levees, the exclusion of fire, and late season grazing by wildlife (during the fall and early winter) would inhibit cottonwood regeneration. The cottonwood-dominated community would change to a shrub-grass or conifer community with time.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Elimination of all livestock grazing would allow for greater shrub production and diversity of understory habitats in cottonwood stands.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p> <p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued)	Salt and mineral supplements used for livestock can leach into the soil, affecting plant survival and growth. These supplements can also attract wildlife. No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative. No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Oil and gas development on federal mineral estate outside the Snake River corridor could cause a short-term loss of vegetation followed by an increase in vegetation with the reestablishment of desirable grass and forb species after reclamation measures. The long-term loss in vegetation would not be significant. There could be an increase in weeds in the short-term until reclamation success.	Plant survival and growth would be benefited as salt and mineral supplements would not be used as there is no allowed grazing. No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels. No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative. No similar impact.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued)	<p>No similar impact.</p> <p>A long-term protective withdrawal to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims could benefit vegetation in the long term.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Other leasable minerals development on federal mineral estate outside the Snake River corridor could cause a short-term loss of vegetation followed by an increase in vegetation with the reestablishment of desirable grass and forb species after reclamation measures. The long-term loss in vegetation would not be significant. There could be an increase in weeds in the short-term until reclamation success.</p> <p>Opening public lands and federal mineral estate to the staking and development of mining claims in 2005 could cause removal of vegetation and an increase in weeds.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>VEGETATION (Continued)</p>	<p>The extraction of sand and gravel on public lands and federal mineral estate only within the active unvegetated channel could cause a temporary increase in weeds in the area during each season of use.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>The extraction of sand and gravel on public lands and federal mineral estate could cause the loss of vegetation and an increase in weeds in the area for the duration of the operations. Reclamation activities would cause an increase in desirable species in the long term.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative, pending disposal of the parcels.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>VEGETATION (Continued)</p>	<p>Repeated off-road vehicle (OHV) use would damage vegetation because vehicle tires crush and tear plant tissues and eventually destroy plant cover. OHV activity often occurs in areas that are erosive. The combination of vegetation loss and activity on erosive soils produces excessive soil erosion and causes further impacts associated with sedimentation on adjacent areas. The impacts could be the most beneficial to vegetation as public lands in the planning area would be closed to motorized vehicle use except at the Wilson Bridge and certain designated roads and non-motorized vehicles would be limited to designated roads and trails.</p>	<p>The impacts could be greater than under the Preferred Alternative as more areas would be open for motorized and non-motorized use.</p>	<p>The impacts could be greater than under the Preferred Alternative as public lands in the planning area would be either closed or limited to existing roads and trails for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Repeated off-road vehicle (OHV) use would damage vegetation because vehicle tires crush and tear plant tissues and eventually destroy plant cover. OHV activity often occurs in areas that are erosive. The combination of vegetation loss and activity on erosive soils produces excessive soil erosion and causes further impacts associated with sedimentation on adjacent areas.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued)	An increase in the number of visitors and improvement of new development of new facilities or camping areas could cause an increase of disturbance, loss of vegetation, and an increase in weeds.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	A decrease in the number of visitors and fewer improvements or developments of new facilities could cause an increase of vegetation and a decrease in weeds, causing an overall beneficial effect to the native plant species.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Visual resource management could benefit vegetation through Class II VRM management actions on selected parcels to maintain or improve scenic values.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Visual resource management could benefit vegetation less than the Preferred Alternative through Class III VRM management actions.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
<i>Noxious weeds and other invasive species</i>	Fire suppression efforts may lead to spread of noxious weeds and other invasive species through soil disturbance or introduction of seed from outside sources.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Noxious weeds and other invasive species (Continued)</i></p>	<p>Livestock grazing, recreational use, interpretive sites, additional access, and surface-disturbing activities would result in more seed dispersal than in the Preferred Alternative and the increased establishment of noxious weeds and other invasive species. Seed dispersal would occur both within and outside of the planning area. These effects would be mitigated by implementation of the Jackson Hole Weed Management Plan.</p> <p>Access and rights-of-way could lead to surface disturbance or the introduction of noxious weed seed dispersal agents.</p> <p>Strict water quality protection measures for public lands could reduce ability to treat noxious weeds and other invasive species with chemicals.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Impacts would be less than those described for the Preferred Alternative because there would be no livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing, recreational use, interpretivesites, and surface-disturbing activities would not cause seed dispersal or the increased establishment of noxious weeds and other invasive species. However, uses of the new parcel landowners could contribute to establishment of weeds. Seed dispersal would occur both within and outside of the planning area.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing, recreational use, interpretive sites, and surface-disturbing activities would result in seed dispersal and the establishment of noxious weeds and other invasive species. Seed dispersal would occur both within and outside of the planning area. These effects would be mitigated by implementation of the Jackson Hole Weed Management Plan.</p>
		<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
		<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Noxious weeds and other invasive species (Continued)</i>	Delaying weed treatments on public lands to avoid special wildlife needs could impede efforts to control noxious weeds and other invasive species.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Interpretive sites, improved visitor services, and recreation easements could increase the potential for noxious weed dispersal (i.e., vehicles, pets, humans).	These impacts would not occur as these developments would not be implemented.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	More options would be available for the control of noxious weeds on public lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Removal of chemical control will impede efforts to control noxious weeds and other invasive species.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Riparian	Fire management activities (i.e., suppression) would be mitigated through emergency fire rehabilitation, if needed, resulting in no adverse impact to riparian/wetland areas.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Actions to protect public lands from hazardous waste would positively benefit riparian/wetland areas.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Riparian (Continued)</i>	Closing the parcels along the Snake River to Desert Land Entry would benefit riparian/wetland areas. Sale or transfer of public lands could remove riparian/wetlands from BLM management.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Sale of public lands could remove riparian/wetlands from BLM management. Exchange of riparian/wetlands for other lands may not be for those of equal or better functional value or habitat value.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Sale of public lands could remove riparian/wetlands from BLM management but would allow public access to other riparian/wetland areas.	Private sale would have similar impacts to Desert Land Entry. Sale of public lands will remove riparian/wetlands in Teton County from BLM management.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Same as Alternative C.
	BLM would not be managing the riparian/wetland areas.	This impact would not occur, as BLM would not be acquiring parcels.	BLM management of riparian/wetland areas may be improved through acquisition or exchange of parcels.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.
	The imposition of conservation easements on disposals could assist the management and protection of riparian/wetland areas.	This impact would not occur, as BLM would not be retaining conservation easements.	Same as Alternative A.	The imposition of conservation easements on disposals would assist the management and protection of riparian/wetland areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Riparian (Continued)</i>	Resolving occupancy trespass by removing the trespass would have no impact or would be a positive impact to riparian/wetland areas.	Resolving occupancy trespass by removing the trespass would have no impact or would have a positive impact to riparian/wetland areas.	Land sales in the case of occupancy trespass could result in removal of riparian/wetland areas from BLM management.	Same as Alternative A.	No similar impact.	Resolving agricultural or occupancy trespass by removing the trespass would have no impact or would be a positive impact to riparian/wetland areas. However, resolving the issue through rental agreement would continue any impacts that may be occurring.
	Riparian/wetland areas would generally be avoided by ROW development. Mitigation measures to rehabilitate areas would be developed case by case. However, some trees could be lost.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Some riparian/wetland areas could be permanently lost (e.g., from road development). Other situations (e.g., buried utility lines) could be mitigated through rehabilitation of the affected area. Trees could be permanently lost.	Aquatic and wetland sites are exclusion areas for ROW development. Other riparian areas would be restored if ROWs were allowed. However, some trees could be lost.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Riparian (Continued)</i>	Elimination of fall grazing would increase the recovery and productivity of riparian/wetland shrub species. Should grazing permits be relinquished in the future, the removal of livestock grazing would allow for quicker recovery of any degraded vegetative conditions.	Fall grazing would be detrimental to riparian/wetland shrub condition. Should grazing permits be relinquished in the future, the removal of livestock grazing would allow for quicker recovery of any degraded vegetative conditions.	Same as Alternative A.	Elimination of livestock grazing would lead to a greater increase in the recovery and productivity of riparian/wetland shrub species than under the Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	There would be no adverse impact to riparian/wetland areas in the Snake River Corridor due to geothermal or oil and gas development activities.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	There would be no adverse impact to riparian/wetland areas in the Snake River Corridor due to any leasable minerals.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Leasing lands for phosphate, sodium, or other leasable minerals development could have an adverse impact to riparian/wetland areas during development (surface disturbance and vegetation loss).	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) Riparian (Continued)	A long-term mineral withdrawal in the planning area would protect riparian/wetland areas from mineral development.	Public mineral estate outside the area included in PLO 7143 (2896 acres) would be available for locatable mineral development. This could affect riparian or wetland habitats in some areas.	Public mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) would be available for locatable mineral development. This could affect riparian or wetland habitats in some areas.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Confining sand and gravel operations to the active, unvegetated channel within the levees would have minimal adverse effect on the riparian/wetland plant community.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Sand and Gravel operations could result in widespread loss of riparian/wetland habitat outside the levees.	There would be no impact to riparian/wetland habitat due to Salable mineral development.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Increased access to public lands may have an adverse effect on riparian/wetland areas, depending on the level and type of use by the public. Restrictions on motorized access would benefit riparian/wetland resources.	Increased access to public lands may have an adverse effect on riparian/wetland areas depending on the level and type of use by the public. Access, by itself, has no impact to riparian/wetland areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact. Access to the parcels would decrease or be lost entirely.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Riparian (Continued)</i>	Limiting motorized vehicle use to specific existing roads, non-motorized traffic to designated roads and trails and possibly limiting all but authorized traffic seasonally where needed would benefit riparian/wetland resources.	Riparian/wetland habitat could be adversely affected by allowing all public lands to be open to OHVs. This could create new roads and trails over time, and increase erosion and the destruction of riparian/wetland plants.	Limiting OHVs to existing roads and trails, and closing trails causing resource damage, would be beneficial to riparian/wetland habitats.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar impact.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	There could be some limited adverse impact to riparian/wetland shrubs due to over-the-snow vehicles, primarily in low snow years.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	There would be no adverse impact to riparian/wetland resource due to over-the-snow vehicles.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Riparian/wetland resources could be impacted negatively with increased "land-based" recreation activity; however, monitoring, mitigation, and informational signing could help to alleviate these impacts.	Most recreational activity in this area has not impacted the riparian/wetland resource. However, some negative impact to riparian/wetland resources has occurred due to "land-based" recreation. This impact has been limited to specific areas and has been a result of non-authorized activity.	Riparian/wetland resources could be impacted negatively with increased "land-based" recreation activity; however, monitoring, mitigation, and informational signing could help to alleviate these impacts.	The decrease in "land-based" recreation and the implementation of signing and a fee system could protect riparian/wetland resources.	No similar impact.	Same as Alternative B.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>VEGETATION (Continued)</p> <p><i>Riparian (Continued)</i></p>	<p>These benefits could be realized if the managing agencies and/or entities maintain the existing boat access facilities, and develop additional boating accesses.</p>	<p>Maintaining existing and developing additional float boating access and visitor facilities at specific locations may be beneficial to riparian/wetland resources by concentrating use in designated areas, providing educational opportunities, and eliminating unintended encroachment into other areas.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Maintaining existing float boating access and visitor facilities at specific locations may be more beneficial to riparian/wetland resources by concentrating use in fewer designated areas, providing educational opportunities, and eliminating unintended encroachment into other areas</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
	<p>If additional boat ramp facilities (such as parking areas) cannot be located outside of riparian areas, a limited amount of riparian vegetation could be permanently lost.</p> <p>Regulated overnight camping at specific boat-in campground areas could have some localized adverse effect to riparian/wetland resources.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>This impact would not occur, as no additional facilities would be constructed.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
		<p>No camping would be allowed, so there would be no impact to riparian/wetland resources.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>No similar impact.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VEGETATION (Continued) <i>Riparian (Continued)</i>	<p>All vegetation management activities on public lands would be designed to enhance riparian/wetland health and would have positive impacts.</p> <p>Chemical control of noxious weeds and other invasive species could damage some riparian plants in the short term, but long-term vegetation health should be improved.</p> <p>Riparian/wetland areas may not be managed specifically for proper functioning condition, but for more broadly-defined wildlife habitat goals.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>This impact would not occur, as chemical control of noxious weeds and other invasive species would be prohibited.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>All wildlife and watershed management activities on public lands would be designed with riparian/wetland health as a priority and would thus positively benefit this resource.</p>	<p>Managing riparian/wetland areas to maintain proper functioning condition or later seral stages (outside of the levees) would be beneficial to this resource.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Riparian/wetland areas would probably not be managed for proper functioning condition.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
VISUAL RESOURCES	<p>Visibility would be affected on a local and temporary basis by airborne dust from the use of motorized vehicles along levees and by mining of sand and gravel.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Compared to the Preferred Alternative, dust and associated visual impacts would increase as additional areas are mined for sand and gravel.</p>	<p>Compared to the Preferred Alternative, dust and associated visual impacts would be reduced since mining would be prohibited and motorized vehicle use would be confined to the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>Management of the parcels by the acquiring agencies or entities for wildlife habitat and open space would probably allow for a low degree of alteration to the existing scenic values.</p> <p>Some impacts to visual quality could occur; the extent of visual changes is difficult to predict as BLM would not be managing the parcels.</p>	<p>Management of visual resources to assigned VRM objectives would allow for a low degree of alteration to the existing scenic values.</p> <p>Changes in visual quality would be minimal due to restrictions on development.</p>	<p>Compared to the Preferred Alternative, the management of visual resources to assigned VRM objectives would allow a greater degree of alteration to the existing scenic values.</p> <p>Changes in visual quality would be increased under this alternative.</p>	<p>Management of visual resources to assigned VRM objectives would allow for a low degree of alteration to the existing scenic values.</p> <p>Changes in visual quality would be the least under this alternative.</p>	<p>No VRM objectives would be assigned. Private landowners could make alterations to scenic values.</p> <p>Changes in visual quality could be greatest under this alternative.</p>	<p>Management of visual resources to assigned VRM objectives would allow for a low degree of alteration to the existing scenic values.</p> <p>Changes in visual quality would be minimal.</p>
	<p>Smoke from campfires at primitive campgrounds, if allowed by the managing agencies or entities, would affect visibility locally during the summer.</p>	<p>This impact would not occur, as no camping would be allowed.</p>	<p>Smoke from campfires at primitive campgrounds would affect visibility locally during the summer.</p>	<p>This impact would not occur, as no camping would be allowed.</p>	<p>This impact would not occur, as no camping would be allowed.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WATERSHED	The lower levels of mining or soil disturbance under this alternative would create a lower potential for water quality degradation.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The higher levels of disturbance within and outside the levees would create a greater potential for water quality degradation, due not only to greater levels of direct disturbance but increased channel modification as well.	As this alternative has the lowest levels of soil disturbance and no mining activity, water quality degradation from these activities would be the lowest of all alternatives.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Disturbance within the channel due to gravel mining could create short-term decreases in water quality. Continued mining over time will have both short-term local and long-term remote effects on river morphology.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The areas outside the levees that might be disturbed under this alternative would have a less direct and smaller initial effect on water quality and watershed function but would most likely exist longer as visual disturbances.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The existence of the levee system will be the primary long-term factor affecting channel condition and sediment related water quality.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WATERSHED (Continued)	Continued grazing at past levels would result in the maintenance of existing grazing related conditions. If grazing pressures were altered, the impacts to the system would change.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The extended grazing season would create additional disturbance to vegetation and soil, increasing the potential for water quality degradation over the Preferred Alternative.	The removal of grazing by domestic animals would result in a lower potential for water quality degradation. Because grazing would still take place on private lands, the effect would not be entirely eliminated from the system.	No similar impact; there would be no livestock grazing.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Impacts from OHV activity would be dependent on the OHV management practiced by the acquiring or managing agencies or entities.	Increased runoff from OHV related disturbances would create a potential for water quality degradation.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, the higher levels of OHV use and potential loss of management ability due to potential land sales would create a potential for increased water quality degradation.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, the potential for water quality degradation would be less due to lower levels of OHV-related disturbance.	There would be no similar impact as there would be no public access to the parcels. However, management by private landowners may result in similar impacts.	OHV activity will most likely increase with time. Improved management of this activity could reduce the potential for accelerated runoff from public lands and the associated water quality degradation. Given the relatively small size of the public lands in comparison to the planning area, this would not eliminate the potential for OHV related damage.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WATERSHED (Continued)	The potential for water quality degradation would increase with increased recreation activities. Actions taken to inform and direct the recreating public could reduce the potential per capita influence, but the overall level of recreation related disturbance would increase.	Runoff from recreation related disturbances would create a potential for water quality degradation. With increased recreation pressures, the potential for recreation related disturbance would increase.	The higher levels of recreational use and loss of management ability due to potential land sales would create a potential for water quality degradation greater than the Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	There would be a lower potential for general public related water quality impacts and an increased potential for impacts due to the management practices of private landowners with the increased privatization of the land.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	The addition of a boat ramp at the South Park bridge and the signing of public land, if carried out by the acquiring or managing agencies or entities, would create areas of concentrated disturbance but could also assist in reducing overall disturbance.	This impact would be lessened, as the South Park boat ramp would be built but no signs would be placed on the public land parcels.	The addition of a boat ramp at the South Park bridge and the signing of public land would create areas of concentrated disturbance but could also assist in reducing overall disturbance.	The signing of public land would create areas of concentrated disturbance but could also assist in reducing overall disturbance.	There would be no public access to the parcels after sale; no similar impacts.	Same as Alternative B.
	Sanitation facilities provided at key recreation sites would reduce water quality impacts from human waste.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No public recreation sites on the parcels; this impact would not occur.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WATERSHED (Continued)	Given the existence and the extent of the levee system and the comparatively small amount of public land involved, the actions taken on public land will most likely have only minor impacts on the channel condition and non-point source related water quality.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Isolated oxbows, within the levee system, would continue to be affected by both the movements of the active channel and channel reclamation efforts.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT	There would be no "jeopardy" effects on threatened or endangered species including Canada lynx, gray wolves, grizzly bears, bald eagles, and whooping cranes.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Actions of private landowners that might impact threatened or endangered species cannot be predicted.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Prohibiting firewood harvest on public lands would benefit wildlife that require deadwood for nesting or reproductive habitat.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	This prohibition would not be in effect on the lands; impacts to wildlife habitat could occur.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	<p>Closing public lands to Desert Land Entry and agricultural lease could benefit wildlife by prohibiting development or impacts to forage.</p> <p>Fire suppression would generally benefit wildlife habitats. The potential exists for adverse impacts due to human-wildlife interactions or habitat alterations from construction of fire breaks/roads.</p> <p>Actions to clean up hazardous materials and wastes on public lands, and prevent their release onto public lands and water, would benefit wildlife, fish, and amphibians.</p> <p>Maintaining public access to the parcels could adversely impact wildlife due to human-wildlife interactions. However, seasonal closures/restrictions would minimize adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Sale of the parcels into private ownership may have the same impacts as Desert Land Entry.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	<p>Changes in landownership that increase the incidence of human-wildlife interactions may cause adverse impacts to wildlife. Construction of parks and pathways could expand human presence into new areas not previously accessible.</p> <p>Requiring the acquiring or managing agencies or entities to manage the lands for open space and wildlife habitat would protect wildlife migration routes and corridors.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Wildlife migration routes and corridors would be protected.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Compared to Alternative A, wildlife migration corridors would be protected to a greater extent by landowners' adjustments to consolidate public lands, the use of conservation easements, management prescriptions for fence modification, and prohibitions on mining.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>No protection of wildlife migration corridors.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	The retention of conservation easements would benefit wildlife by protecting select areas from development-related wildlife disturbances.	Parcels sold or transferred out of BLM ownership would not be protected by conservation easements; development of these parcels would cause wildlife disturbances and impacts to habitat quantity and quality.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	No additional recreation easements would be acquired by BLM; there would be no impact to wildlife from additional human presence due to acquired recreation easements.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The acquisition of recreational easements using Land and Water Conservation Fund could adversely impact wildlife by increasing the potential human-wildlife interactions.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative B.
	The removal of trespasses on public land could benefit wildlife if human-wildlife interactions are reduced.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Landownership changes could adversely impact wildlife if there is a subsequent increase in human presence in areas previously excluding general publics.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Linear rights-of-way that cross the Snake River could create some adverse impact to fish habitat due to short-term sedimentation.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	These impacts would not occur as no rights-of-way would be allowed to cross the Snake River.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Allowing future rights-of-way on public lands could adversely impact wildlife if this permits increased human-wildlife interactions or destruction of forage.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Prohibiting communication sites on public lands would eliminate the potential for avian-tower collisions. The potential for human-wildlife interactions associated with maintenance activities at these sites would be eliminated.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Impacts to raptors and other birds may occur, as these restrictions would not apply after parcel sale.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Implementation of management actions consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management could benefit certain wildlife species dependent on post-grazing forage for fall/winter survival.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Wildlife species dependent on post-grazing forage would benefit, as there would be no livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative C; however, other impacts may occur due to the management practices of private landowners.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Impacts to wildlife forage could occur if livestock grazing were allowed by the acquiring or managing agencies or entities.	Approval of additional grazing permits on public lands could adversely impact available forage for migrating and/or wintering wildlife.	Same as Alternative A; this impact could be increased as fall livestock grazing would be allowed.	There would be no impact to wildlife foraging on public land parcels.	There would be no impact to wildlife forage from livestock grazing on public land parcels; impacts may occur due to the management practices of private landowners.	There would be no additional impact to wildlife forage, as no additional livestock grazing would be allowed.
Conformance to applicable fencing standards would ensure minimal disruption to wildlife movements.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Fences not compatible with wildlife movements may be constructed, impacting wildlife migration and other movements.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	
Closing public lands and federal mineral estate to geothermal leasing would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse development in sensitive habitats.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	
Closing public lands and federal mineral estate in the Snake River corridor to oil and gas leasing would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse development in sensitive habitats.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Closing federal mineral estate outside the Snake River corridor to oil and gas leasing would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse development in sensitive habitats and preventing potential increases in human disturbances.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Leasing for oil and gas on federal mineral estate outside the Snake River corridor could have detrimental impacts on wildlife due to direct loss of habitat or increases in human disturbance.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Closing public lands and federal mineral estate to phosphate, sodium, and other leasable minerals to leasing would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse development in suitable habitats.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Leasing on public lands and federal mineral estate for phosphate, sodium, and other leasable minerals could have detrimental impacts on wildlife due to direct loss of habitat or increases in human disturbance.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Prohibiting mineral or surface entry through June 1, 2005 under PLO 7143 would prevent adverse impacts to foraging, nesting and wintering habitats.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Pursuing a long-term protective withdrawal to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims (inside the PLO 7143 area) would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse impacts to foraging, nesting or wintering habitats.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Allowing mineral and/or surface entry in the area included in PLO 7143 after the withdrawal expires in 2005 could adversely impact wildlife forage/habitat and increase the potential for human-wildlife interactions.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Pursuing a long-term protective withdrawal to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims (including the area outside PLO 7143) would benefit wildlife by preventing potential adverse impacts to foraging, nesting or wintering habitats.	Allowing mineral and/or surface entry outside the PLO 7143 area could adversely impact wildlife forage/habitat and increase the potential for human-wildlife interactions.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)</p>	<p>Sand and gravel mining would be most likely during mid-fall to late winter when river flows are lowest, and operations would remain outside critical wintering habitats and nest site buffer zones. These factors and the use of site-specific seasonal requirements would prevent most impacts to nesting, foraging, and wintering habitat on the Snake River and tributaries. Fish habitat could be affected through channel manipulation and sedimentation.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts to migrating and wintering avian species from sand and gravel mining would be greatest under this alternative.</p>	<p>The prohibition on mining and the use of site-specific seasonal requirements for other surface-disturbing and disruptive activities would prevent most impacts to nesting, foraging, and wintering habitat on the Snake River and tributaries. There would be no adverse fisheries impacts.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>Permitting access across public lands near the Wilson and South Park bridges for mining of salable minerals on adjacent privately-owned lands could have an adverse impact on nesting or foraging birds, or other wildlife that encounter an increased human disturbance.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>These impacts would not occur as mining for salable minerals would not occur on public lands or mineral estate.</p>	<p>No similar impact. BLM would not have authority to grant access across private lands. Impacts may occur if private landowners grant access.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	<p>The use of appropriate mitigation measures for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities on public lands could reduce adverse impacts to wildlife.</p> <p>Collecting of fossils could adversely impact wildlife due to increased human-wildlife interactions or destruction of vegetation from excavation.</p> <p>Maintaining visitor facilities at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access would have an undetermined impact on wildlife due to the potential for future increased use.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Improving the visitor facilities at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access could have a detrimental impact on wildlife if this promotes an increased use of river-related activities that cause higher levels of human-wildlife conflicts or impact corridor vegetation.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative; benefits from the use of mitigation measures would be lost as the parcels are sold into private ownership.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Impacts cannot be determined, as it is not known whether public access to the Wilson Bridge boat ramp site would be available after parcel sale.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Development of a boat and river access near the South Park Bridge could have an adverse impact to avian species which nest or forage near the facilities. If this development increases on-river use, adverse impacts could increase proportionally due to adverse human-wildlife interactions.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	These impacts would not occur, as no boat ramp would be constructed at the South Park Bridge.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Development of additional boat ramps/river access points could have detrimental effects to wildlife due to direct loss of habitats or increases in human-wildlife conflicts.	These impacts would not occur, as no additional boat access facilities would be constructed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Development of campgrounds could have detrimental effects to wildlife due to direct loss of habitats, human excursions into previously undisturbed habitats, or increases in human-wildlife conflicts.	These impacts would not occur, as no campgrounds would be constructed.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Overnight camping could have detrimental effects to wildlife due to direct impacts on vegetation, human incursions into previously undisturbed habitats or increases in human-wildlife conflicts, if camping is allowed by the acquiring or managing agencies or entities.	Continued prohibition of overnight camping would prevent detrimental impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat due to firewood harvest and nighttime disturbance of wildlife.	Overnight camping could have detrimental effects to wildlife due to direct impacts on vegetation, human incursions into previously undisturbed habitats or increases in human-wildlife conflicts.	Same as Alternative A.	No similar impact.	Same as Alternative B.
	Posting signs at boat and river access sites on public land to educate river users about potential wildlife impacts, could help to minimize conflicts and to heighten awareness of viewable wildlife, if the signs were posted by the acquiring or managing agencies or entities.	No similar impact.	Posting signs at boat and river access sites on public land to educate river users about potential wildlife impacts, could help to minimize conflicts and to heighten awareness of viewable wildlife.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No similar impact.	Same as Alternative B.

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)</p>	<p>With expansion of recreational activities into big game habitat, human-wildlife interactions would increase. Human injuries could occur and some wildlife might be displaced. Depending on the extent of the activities, wildlife reproductive success and species diversity could be affected.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>No similar impact. There would be no recreational access to the parcels. However, private landowners' uses of the parcels may cause other impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>
	<p>Any level of human activity in areas of breeding, nesting or foraging raptors can be expected to influence raptor behaviors. Some degree of adverse impacts may be possible.</p>	<p>River activities such as fishing and floating may adversely affect spring nesting and young rearing by birds that depend on the Snake River. The effects would be greatest on bald eagle nesting areas that are viewable from some portion of the river or its banks.</p>	<p>Compared to the Preferred Alternative, these effects would be increased by the higher levels of river recreation and emphasis on mining.</p>	<p>Compared to the Preferred Alternative, impacts on raptors due to recreation activity would be less.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

TABLE 4-2

COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)</p>	<p>An increase in land-based recreational use would likely increase the potential for adverse impacts to wildlife due to detrimental, direct effects to vegetation/forage, and/or increased human-wildlife conflicts.</p> <p>Control of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation would benefit wildlife by providing appropriate vegetation/forage types, so long as the control method minimizes toxicity.</p> <p>Under the Snake River Restoration Project, fisheries habitat may be improved. "Spring creeks" or channels which cross some BLM parcels could provide fish habitat if, in the future, connection to the Snake River were made suitable to fish passage and barriers were removed.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Lesser ability to control noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation could impact wildlife habitat through the presence of more weeds. Prohibition on the use of chemical control would reduce the potential for a toxic affect to wildlife.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>A decrease in land-based recreational use would likely benefit wildlife by reducing impacts to vegetation/forage or decreasing human-wildlife conflicts.</p> <p>Impacts are unknown as the extent of weed control that private landowners would employ is unknown.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	<p>Maintaining riparian habitats (outside the Snake River channel) in proper functioning condition would benefit wildlife habitat by providing a sustained level of available forage and water quality.</p> <p>Cooperation with the WGF and USFWS to identify active or historic raptor nest locations and to impose seasonal restrictions to reduce human intrusions would ensure minimal impacts on nesting pairs and nestlings.</p> <p>River recreation and sand and gravel mining could cause impacts to bald eagle nesting success due to disturbance of the birds from human presence.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Impacts could be greater, as recreation would be unregulated and could increase substantially.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>The higher levels of river recreation and emphasis on mining under this alternative could cause greater impacts to bald eagle nesting success.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>These impacts would be less than under the Preferred Alternative, as no sand and gravel mining would be allowed.</p>	<p>Habitats may be of lesser quality as proper functioning condition of riparian areas may not be maintained.</p> <p>Private landowners' management of habitats near raptor nest locations may cause impacts on nesting pairs and nestlings.</p> <p>Impacts would be similar to Alternative A until parcel sale. Other impacts to bald eagle nesting and habitat could occur after parcel sale due to the management practices of private landowners.</p>	<p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p> <p>Same as Preferred Alternative.</p>

**TABLE 4-2
COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Land Use or Resource	Preferred Alternative	No Action Current Management Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT (Continued)	Anticipated actions and activities would not adversely affect smaller mammals, such as furbearers and predators, or amphibians and reptiles. Anticipated beneficial management practices in riparian areas would enhance habitat for these animals.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Compared to the Preferred Alternative, increased recreational activity in riparian areas, such as pulling rafts through vegetation and foot travel creating new trails, would negatively affect these animals.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	The impacts of private landowners' actions cannot be predicted. Benefits from BLM management practices would not be realized.	Same as Preferred Alternative.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

Cumulative effects are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a minority landowner in Jackson Hole. The public land parcels cover less than 10% of the length of the Snake River between Grand Teton National Park and the South Park Bridge (about 20 miles; see Map 1). For this reason, the cumulative impacts of BLM actions that would be taken under these alternatives are minor in proportion to potential impacts from actions on private lands in the Valley.

However, BLM does control the majority of public access to the river corridor. Public land parcels are located at both highway bridges over the Snake River, and at other points that allow a substantial amount of public access and recreation use. The wildlife habitat value of the public land parcels is also important, as undeveloped areas usable by certain wildlife species, particularly bald eagles, are located mostly on the BLM parcels.

This section will analyze differences between the alternatives and the overall impacts associated with implementing each alternative. It is assumed that there would be impacts from many other activities (i.e., residential and commercial development, new roads, increased traffic) in the valley outside of the control of BLM, but these activities are not specifically addressed.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative assumes that the BLM would transfer the public land parcels to another government land managing agency, or a private entity with interests in preserving lands undeveloped for open space. While no specific restrictions for management would be placed on the parcels as they are transferred, acquiring agencies or entities would be required to manage the parcels to preserve public access, recreation use, open space, and wildlife habitat values.

Existence of the public land parcels is instrumental in maintaining public access to this section of the river. Ensuring that the parcels remain open for public use would positively benefit recreation users. Limited overnight camping could be provided on public lands, and the number and type of river floaters could be regulated through a permit process. This would result in improved facilities for river users, but also may cause conflicts if users cannot get a river permit or if campgrounds do not have the capacity to answer the demand. Signs and interpretive facilities on public land parcels could enable users to locate and use the parcels with less likelihood of trespassing on adjacent private lands. However, increasing the numbers of users on the parcels also could cause an increase in incidental trespass.

This alternative limits access to minerals. Public lands and mineral estate would be closed to leasing for oil and gas and other leasable minerals. These areas also would be closed to locatable mineral (gold, silver, diamonds) entry. Salable minerals, in particular sand and gravel, would be available only in the active river channel; access to sand and gravel would be subject to provisions to protect sensitive resources. These actions would benefit the river system, wildlife habitats, and the recreation experience. The extractive mineral industry in general, and local prices for and availability of construction materials, would be negatively impacted to the extent that materials from BLM-administered mineral estate contribute to the overall availability on mineral materials in Teton County.

The Preferred Alternative would maintain or increase the amount of land in Jackson Hole that is managed by two or more entities. The BLM would retain all federal mineral estate; thus all minerals management activities, particularly gravel sales, would be carried out in the Pinedale BLM office. In addition, if conservation easements are retained on any parcels that are sold or transferred, a layer of bureaucracy would also be added to the management of those parcels.

Alternative A

Alternative A, Continuation of Existing Management, would continue current management practices based on compliance with federal laws, regulations, and BLM policy, as well as adherence to court decisions granting recreational access and allocating livestock grazing within the Snake River corridor. Alternative A would provide for the retention of public lands for public purposes and would allow the current levels of recreational activity to continue and expand to the possible detriment of wildlife and the recreational experience. Generally, mineral development would be prohibited, although mining for mineral materials, such as sand and gravel, would be allowed case-by-case. There would be little active management, although some restrictions would exist where necessary to protect sensitive resources.

Overnight camping would continue to be prohibited on the parcels, and no access fee or recreation permit system would be established. Retaining the parcels for public use would positively benefit recreation users. This alternative would result in fewer facilities and options for river users, but also would not limit use of the river. A continued lack of signs and interpretive facilities on public land parcels would result in continued confusion about the location of and access to the parcels. Conflicts and trespass would increase. The cumulative effects of no management would negatively impact important resources.

Impacts of this alternative on mineral development would be similar to those listed for the Preferred Alternative.

This alternative does not include the option of sale or transfer of public lands out of public ownership (with the exception of parcel 27, the trash transfer station). The lands may be transferred to another public agency, with the requirement that the lands remain open for public use. This may allow for some opportunity to provide improved access or better protection to some parcels; however, much of the opportunity to affect consolidation or better access to the parcels through private exchange would be lost. It is likely that the current configuration of parcel locations, sizes, and access would continue under this alternative.

Alternative B

Alternative B would reduce the level of land use restrictions while providing for higher levels of mineral development and recreational use. The development of two primitive, boat-in campsites, the construction of a new boat and river access site, and the posting of interpretive and directional signs would emphasize recreation. Under Alternative B, some lands could be removed from public ownership and use.

Alternative B emphasizes the development and consumptive use of non-renewable resources and increased recreation. Negative impacts to visual, wildlife, vegetation, and watershed resources would be greatest under this alternative. Access to mineral resources would be greatest, providing for local sources of minerals and limited economic development.

Because Alternative B allows for the sale of parcels into private ownership, there could be a loss of areas available for recreation use. Overnight camping would be provided on public lands, and the number and type of both private and commercial river floaters would be regulated through a permit process. This would result in improved facilities for river users, but may also cause conflicts if users cannot get a river permit or if campgrounds do not have the capacity to answer the demand. Signs and interpretive facilities on public land parcels would enable users to locate and use the parcels with less likelihood of trespassing on adjacent private lands. However, increasing the numbers of users on the parcels also could cause an increase in incidental trespass and may be reflected in additional adverse human-wildlife interactions.

This alternative emphasizes access to minerals. Public lands and mineral estate outside the river corridor would be opened to leasing for oil and gas, and all public mineral estate would be opened to leasing for other leasable minerals. The areas also would be opened to locatable mineral (gold, silver, diamonds) entry after expiration of the withdrawal in 2005. Salable minerals, in particular sand and gravel, would be available on federal mineral estate throughout the planning area. These actions would impact the river system, wildlife habitats, and the recreation experience. The extractive mineral industry in general, and local prices for and availability of construction materials, could be positively impacted to the extent that these materials contribute to the overall availability in Teton County.

The opportunity remains to provide improved access or better protection to some parcels, through exchange or transfer of public land parcels. Transfer of any parcels out of public ownership likely would result in loss of public access in an area where access to the river is already limited; however, some exchanges could result in improved river access at another point, better management of other parcels, or other public benefits.

Wildlife, vegetation and watershed resources would experience the most negative impacts under this alternative.

Alternative C

Alternative C is a resource protection alternative. The protection of wildlife habitat and a more isolated recreational experience would be pursued through a reduced level of river floating. Public education would be highlighted through the use of interpretive signs. Generally, Alternative C would provide for the retention and possible consolidation of public lands. In cases where lands might be removed from public ownership and use, these parcels would be protected from development through the use of conservation easements.

Recreation uses on or originating from public lands would be limited, as camping would be prohibited, as well as commercial, competitive, and organized recreational events. This would adversely affect access to the river, especially for residents of Jackson Hole, who might be less likely to use organized guide services operating out of Grand Teton National Park or the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

In addition to the limitations on access to minerals of the Preferred Alternative, Alternative C disallows access to salable minerals. No minerals could be developed from federal mineral estate in the planning area under this alternative. Impacts would be similar to those listed for the Preferred Alternative, with slightly more negative impact on the availability and price of construction material.

Alternative C is similar to the Preferred Alternative in its approach to sale, exchange, or transfer of public land parcels. Impacts would be similar to those listed for the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative C is a resource protection alternative that includes the greatest provisions for the protection of wildlife habitats, fisheries, vegetation and watershed health, while keeping the parcels available for recreation to the extent possible. Wildlife, vegetation and watershed resources would benefit under this alternative because of the mitigating measures and restrictions on surface-disturbing and consumptive uses.

Alternative D

Alternative D is a disposal alternative. Under Alternative D, BLM would seek to end its management responsibility for surface lands and resources in the planning area. Other agencies or private individuals would manage the parcels (except for the mineral estate, which would be retained by the BLM). Protective restrictions put in place by BLM under other alternatives in this EIS would no longer apply to management of the parcels. Protections required by law, such as cultural resource inventories prior to land disposal, would apply.

Transfer or sale of the parcels into private ownership would greatly impact recreation use of the river, especially for local residents. There would be no public camping, boat launching, or other recreational facilities. Access to the river between Grand Teton National Park and the South Park bridge would be controlled by private individuals, with the potential for all access to be lost, or for high access fees to be charged. This would change the recreation dynamic for many residents of the valley, for whom the river levees are a primary source of recreation. Congestion at other recreation sites in the valley, including walking paths and parks, would increase.

This alternative is similar to the Preferred Alternative in management of federal mineral resources. Impacts would be similar to those listed for the Preferred Alternative. In addition, with loss of public access across the BLM land parcels, gaining access to lands containing federal sand and gravel resources could become more difficult.

All opportunities for the BLM to provide access to or protection of the parcels would be lost. Access to the Snake River through Jackson Hole would become extremely limited. There may be some opportunity for private conservation groups or other agencies to acquire and protect some parcels; however, this cannot be predicted.

It is difficult to predict impacts on wildlife, vegetation, and watershed resources. While reduction of public access may be a benefit to wildlife, this effect would be countered by the potential for development of some of the last remaining undeveloped parcels of wildlife habitat along the river. Vegetation and watersheds would also be impacted if the parcels were developed after sale. Sale of the parcels into private ownership could fundamentally change the character of the river corridor, in regard to public access, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities.

Alternative E

Alternative E is similar to the Preferred Alternative, with the exception that management would be carried out by the BLM. For that reason, impacts would, for the most part, be similar to those listed for the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative E is a resource protection alternative that includes greater provisions for the protection of wildlife habitats, fisheries, cultural resources, recreation use and public access to the parcels. Impacts from surface-disturbing activities, such as mineral extraction, would be reduced. In general, there would be more active management of the parcels, with recreation fee programs, informational signs and interpretive facilities, limitations on livestock grazing, and restrictions on activities that would impact sensitive resources.

The opportunity remains to provide improved access or better protection to some parcels, through exchange or transfer of public land parcels. Transfer of any parcels out of public ownership likely would result in loss of public access in an area where access to the river is already limited; however, some exchanges could result in improved river access at another point, better management of other parcels, or other public benefits.

This alternative limits access to minerals. Public lands and mineral estate would be closed to leasing for oil and gas and other leasable minerals. These areas also would be closed to locatable mineral (gold, silver, diamonds) entry. Salable minerals, in particular sand and gravel, would be available only in the active river channel; access to sand and gravel would be subject to provisions to protect sensitive resources. These actions would benefit the river system, wildlife habitats, and the recreation experience. The extractive mineral industry in general, and local prices for and availability of construction materials, would be negatively impacted to the extent that materials from BLM-administered mineral estate contribute to the overall availability on mineral materials in Teton County.

Existence of the public land parcels is instrumental in maintaining public access to this section of the river. Ensuring that the parcels remain open for public use would positively benefit recreation users. Limited overnight camping could be provided on public lands, and the number and type of river floaters could be regulated through a permit process. This would result in improved facilities for river users, but also may cause conflicts if users cannot get a river permit or if campgrounds do not have the capacity to answer the demand. Signs and interpretive facilities on public land parcels could enable users to locate and use the parcels with less likelihood of trespassing on adjacent private lands. However, increasing the numbers of users on the parcels also could cause an increase in incidental trespass.

Wildlife, vegetation and watershed resources would benefit under this alternative because of the mitigating measures and restrictions on surface-disturbing and consumptive uses. However, development of additional recreation facilities could have negative impacts on some wildlife species and habitats.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Snake River RMP EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists from the Pinedale Field Office, the Rock Springs Field Office, and the Wyoming State Office of the BLM (Table 5-1). Reviews for accuracy and consistency were provided by both the field office and state office staffs.

**TABLE 5-1
SNAKE RIVER RMP LIST OF PREPARERS**

NAME	JOB TITLE	RMP RESPONSIBILITY
Pinedale Field Office		
Prill Mecham	Field Manager	Team Supervision, RMP Oversight
Kellie M. Roadifer	Planning and Environmental Specialist	Team Leader, Livestock Grazing
Martin Hudson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Technical Coordinator, Off-road Vehicles, Recreation, Visual Resource Management, Wild and Scenic Rivers
Keith J. Andrews	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Raptors, Big Game
Rosalie Bennett	Office Automation Clerk	Support
Steve Laster	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation, Sensitive Plants, Livestock Grazing
Karen Rogers	GIS Specialist	Maps
Dave Vlcek	Archeologist	Cultural, Historic, Native American Concerns
Bill Wadsworth	Realty Specialist	Lands, Access, Transportation, Land Ownership
Frank Bain	Geologist (2002)	Minerals, Paleontology, Geology
Phil Howland	Geologist (1999-2001)	Minerals, Paleontology, Geology
Rock Springs Field Office		
Renee Dana	Resource Advisor	Coordination, NEPA, Assistant Team Leader
Dennis Doncaster	Hydrologist	Watershed, Hydrology
Jim Glennon	Botanist	Vegetation, Sensitive/T&E plants
John Henderson	Fisheries Biologist	Fish, Riparian, Wetlands
John MacDonald	Natural Resource Specialist	Soils
Angelina Pryich	Writer/Editor	Editing

NAME	JOB TITLE	RMP RESPONSIBILITY
Wyoming State Office		
Alan Kesterke	Acting State Director	Decision Maker
Joe Patti	Natural Resource Specialist Field Planning Coordinator	Planning process guidance; technical review and training; Field/WSO coordination
Roy Allen	Economist	Socioeconomics
Susan Caplan	Physical Scientist	Air Quality
Sheri Morris	Printing Technician	Publications Preparation
Roger Alexander	Webmaster	Website Maintenance
Tamera Hammack	Web Specialist	Website Maintenance
Esther Simons	Supervisory Cartography Technician	GIS Assistance
Zach Puls	Cartography Technician	GIS Assistance

Consultation, coordination, and public involvement have occurred throughout the process through public meetings, informal meetings, individual contacts, surveys, comment periods, news releases, and *Federal Register* notices.

The process began in the 1980s after the settlement of lawsuits dealing with ownership of the lands along the Snake River. A charter for preparation of the Snake River RMP was finalized in 1999.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation was addressed in the project charter to ensure that the public would have numerous opportunities to be actively involved in the planning and environmental process. Formal and informal input has been encouraged and used.

A public meeting was held on January 27, 2000, to gather comments and input on the Management Situation Analysis, released in December, 1999. A Contingent Valuation Methodology study was conducted during the summer and fall of 2000, to identify non-market values associated with the public land parcels. Representatives of the Pinedale Field Office continue to meet regularly with the Teton County Commission and other area government agencies at a monthly Interagency Breakfast. Formal public comments were received on the Scoping Letter and Notice of Intent (December 1999), the preliminary Planning Criteria and Planning Issues (May 2000), and the Management Situation Analysis (February 2001), and the Preliminary Alternatives (January 2002).

BLM personnel have met formally or informally with many members of the outfitting and ranching industries and the general public.

CONSISTENCY

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other plans was accomplished through frequent communications and cooperative efforts between the BLM and involved federal, state, and local agencies and organizations (Table 5-2).

TABLE 5-2
KEY COORDINATION ACTIONS

AGENCY	COORDINATION/RESPONSIBILITY
FEDERAL AGENCIES	
U.S. Department of the Interior	
Fish and Wildlife Service	Review actions affecting threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife, or plants.
Geological Survey	Review of RMP for consistency with USGS planning.
Minerals Management Service	Review of RMP for consistency with MMS planning.
U.S. Department of Agriculture	
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services	Review of RMP for consistency with Wyoming Predator Damage Management Plan as it relates to resolving conflicts in human-wildlife interactions; i.e., presence of grizzly bears and gray wolves.
Forest Service	Review of RMP for consistency with the management actions. The proposed actions would also be discussed with the Wyoming State Forestry Division and other agencies involved in wild land fire management.
TETON COUNTY	Review RMP for consistency; zoning; access permits.

The Wyoming Governor's Clearinghouse receives 18 copies of this draft document for review to ensure consistency with ongoing State plans. The RMP team has reviewed the Teton County plan to ensure consistency. Meetings are held with the respective county planners and commissioners to promote greater understanding of goals, objectives, and resources of both the county and the BLM.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Members of the RMP team have consulted formally or informally with numerous agencies, groups, and individuals in the RMP development process. The following list is representative of the businesses, agencies, organizations, and individuals who have indicated an interest in the Snake River RMP and who have been contacted during the planning process. This list is not all inclusive. A complete list is on file in the Pinedale Field Office of the BLM.

Federal Agencies

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bureau of Land Management

Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
National Park Service
Office of Environmental Affairs

Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services

Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

State of Wyoming

Department of Environmental Quality

Game and Fish Department

Geological Survey of Wyoming

Governor of Wyoming

State Clearinghouse

State Engineer

State Highway Department

State Historic Preservation Office

Wyoming Recreation Commission

Federal Elected Officials

Congresswoman Barbara Cubin

Senator Mike Enzi

Senator Craig Thomas

State Elected Officials

Senators and Representatives of Teton and Sublette Counties

Local Governments

County governments of Teton and Sublette Counties

Mayors' offices of Jackson, Pinedale, Afton, Alpine, Wilson, Moose, Teton Village

Tribal Councils

Arapaho
Bannock
Shoshoni
Ute

Industry

EOG Resources
ExxonMobil
Evans Gravel Co.
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
Klabzuba Oil and Gas
Marathon Oil Co.
Pacifcorp
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Petroleum Information Corp.
Questar Gas Management Co.
Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association
Southwest Wyoming Mineral Association
Walters Ready Mix Inc.
Western Gas Resources
Wexpro Company
Wyoming Mining Association
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Associations and Interest Groups

American Wildlands
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund
Friends of Pathways
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Humane Society of the United States
Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
Munger Mountain Home Owners

National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oregon and California Trails Association - Wyoming
People for the West
Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter
Southwest Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation
The Fund for Animals
The Nature Conservancy Public Lands Program
Trout Unlimited
Western Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation
Wyoming Association of Professional Archeologists
Wyoming Association of Professional Historians
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Lands Council
Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Others

Many individuals were contacted, including all adjacent landowners, grazing lessees, and known recreation outfitters.

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GLOSSARY

Activity Plan: Site-specific plan which precedes actual development. This is the most detailed level of BLM planning.

Actual Use: The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM.

Air Quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act of 1978.

All-Terrain Vehicle: A wheeled or tracked vehicle, other than a snowmobile or work vehicle, designed primarily for recreational use or for the transportation of property or equipment exclusively on undeveloped road rights of way, marshland, open country or other unprepared surfaces.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but may also include other federally managed, state owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment Categorization: Grazing allotments and rangeland areas used for livestock grazing are assigned to an allotment category during resource management planning. Allotment categorization is used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Categorization is also used to organize allotments into similar groups for purposes of developing multiple use prescriptions, analyzing site-specific and cumulative impacts, and determining trade-offs. The three categories, in order of priority for management, are I (improve), M (maintain), and C (custodial).

Allotment Management Plan: A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

Alluvium: Any sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a river bed, floodplain, or delta.

Amendment: The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved Resource Management Plans or Management Framework Plans using the prescribed provisions for resource management planning appropriate to the proposed action or circumstances. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

Animal Unit Month: A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow unit or its equivalent for 1 month. Approximately 800 pounds of forage.

Assessment: The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

Avoidance Areas: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas would

have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not be otherwise feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

Basalt: Fine-grained, dark-colored igneous rock that is extrusive, high in mafic minerals, and low in silica.

Bedload: Sediment in a stream that moves by sliding, rolling, or bouncing on or near the streambed.

Big Game: Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, mule or white-tailed deer, moose, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

Biological Assessment: The gathering and evaluation of information on endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitat. Required when a management action potentially conflicts with endangered or threatened species, the biological assessment is the way federal agencies enter into formal consultation with the USFWS and describe a proposed action and the consequences to the species the action would affect.

Cambrian: The oldest of the periods of the Paleozoic Era; also the system of strata deposited during that period.

Candidate Species: Any species included in a *Federal Register* notice of review that are being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS.

Canopy: The uppermost layer consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs in a forest or woodland.

Channel: An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

Clean Air Act: Federal legislation governing air pollution. Prevention of Significant Deterioration above legally established levels include the following:

Closed: Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses; refer to specific definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Closed Area or Trail: Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles are permanently or temporarily prohibited. The use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed only with the approval of the authorized officer.

Closed Road: A road or segment which is restricted from certain types of use during certain seasons of the year. The prohibited use and the time period of closure is specified.

Code of Federal Regulations: The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

Community: An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Conformance: That a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.

Consistency: The proposed land use plan does not conflict with officially approved plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other Federal agencies, and State, and local governments to the extent practical within Federal law, regulation, and policy.

Council on Environmental Quality: An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Cover: Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators).

Critical Habitat: An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species “on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection.”

Cultural Resources: Nonrenewable elements of the physical and human environment including archaeological remains (evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities) and sociocultural values traditionally held by ethnic groups (sacred places, traditionally utilized raw materials, etc.).

Cumulative Impact: The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Designated Roads and Trails: Specific roads and trails where some type of motorized vehicle use is allowed either seasonally or year-long.

Discharge (Water): The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given place or within a given period of time.

Discharged Use: A cultural property category indicating that the property has no remaining identifiable use (BLM Manual 8110.42).

Discovery: Knowledge of the presence of valuable minerals within the lines of a location, or in such proximity thereto as to justify a reasonable belief in their existence. Discovery is an extremely important to public lands mining because the Mining Law of 1872 provides that mining claims can be located only after a discovery is made.

Dispersed/Extensive Recreation: Recreation activities of an unstructured type which are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

Diurnal: Describes a cyclic event recurring daily; or the nature or habit of an organism to be active during daylight hours.

Diversity: The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

Easement: A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

Ecosystem: A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

Endangered Species: A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior, and as is further defined by the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Assessment: A concise public document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed federal action and provides sufficient evidence to determine the level of significance of the impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement: A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Erosion: The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.

Exclusion Area: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and 302 permits, leases, and easements would not be authorized.

Extensive Recreation Management Area: Areas where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required. Minimal management actions related to the Bureau's stewardship responsibilities are adequate in these areas.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579. October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

Federal Register: A daily publication which reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

Fishery: Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

Flood Plain: The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water which has been or might be covered by floodwater.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals, which may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

Goal: A broad statement of a desired outcome. Goals are usually not quantifiable and may not have established time frames for achievement.

Grazing System: The manipulation of livestock grazing to accomplish a desired result.

Guidelines: Actions or management practices that may be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as best management practices. Guidelines may be identified during the land use planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Herbaceous: Pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stem plant) as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees.

Historic: Period wherein nonnative cultural activities took place, based primarily upon European roots, having no origin in the traditional Native American culture(s).

Home Range: The area in which an animal travels in the scope of natural activities.

Impact: A modification of the existing environment caused by an action (such as construction or operation of facilities).

Impacts (or Effects): Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

Implementation Plan: A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. An implementation plan usually selects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Implementation plans are synonymous with "activity" plans. Examples of implementation plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, and allotment management plans.

Interdisciplinary Team: A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may

provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions. The number and disciplines of the members preparing the plan vary with circumstances. A member may represent one or more discipline or Bureau program interest.

Interior Board of Land Appeals: The Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals board that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because the Interior Board of Land Appeals acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision but are subject to the courts.

Jurisdiction: The legal right to control or regulate use of a transportation facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.

Land Use Plan: A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed.

Leasable Minerals: Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium, and sodium minerals, and oil, gas, and geothermal.

Limited Areas or Trails: Designated areas or trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Limits of Acceptable Change: A framework for establishing acceptable and appropriate resource and social conditions in recreation settings. A system of management planning.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Management Decision: A decision made by the BLM to manage public lands. Management decisions include both land use plan decisions and implementation decisions.

Management Situation Analysis: Assessment of the current management direction. It includes a consolidation of existing data needed to analyze and resolve identified issues, a description of current BLM management guidance, and a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them.

Mineral Entry: The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any locatable minerals it may contain.

Mineral Estate: The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

Mineral Materials: Materials such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and clay, that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws but that can be acquired under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Mineral Withdrawal: A formal order that withholds federal lands and minerals from entry under the Mining Law of 1872 and closes the area to mineral location (staking mining claims) and development.

Mining Claim: A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining Law and local laws and rules. A single mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.

Moraine: An accumulation of boulders, stones, and other earth debris carried and deposited by a glacier.

Multiple Use: The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the lands for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some lands for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or greatest unit output.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards: The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air. National ambient air quality standards are based on the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, human-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding or the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establishes the Council on Environmental Quality.

National Register of Historic Places: A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, established by the "Historic Preservation Act" of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past, (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads, and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Noxious Weeds: A plant species designated by Federal or State law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the United States.

Objective: A description of a desired condition for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement.

Open: Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Off-Highway Vehicle (off-road vehicle): Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) Any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) Vehicles in official use; and (5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

Official Use: Use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors, in the course of his employment, agency, or representation.

Open Areas and Trails: Designated areas and trails where off-road vehicles may be operated, subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards or an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, subject to standards.

Outstandingly Remarkable River Values: Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values. . . .” Other similar values that may be considered include botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Professional judgment is used to determine whether values exist to an outstandingly remarkable degree.

Overstory: The layer of foliage in a forest canopy.

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Particulate Matter: Fine liquid or solid particles suspended in the air and consisting of dust, smoke, mist, fumes, and compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and metals.

Passerine Birds: Birds of the order Passeriformes, which includes perching birds and songbirds such as blackbirds, jays, finches, warblers, and sparrows. More than half of all birds belong to this order.

Personal Income: The sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, proprietors' income, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments to persons, less personal contributions for social insurance.

pH: A measure of acidity or hydrogen ion activity. Neutral is pH 7.0. All values below 7.0 are acidic, and all values above 7.0 are alkaline.

Plan: A document that contains a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of Bureau-administered resources in a specific geographic area.

Planning Area: A geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

Planning Criteria: The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions.

Planning Base: Includes law, regulation, policy, land use plan decisions (e.g., Resource Management Plans, Resource Management Plan Amendments, and Management Framework Plan Amendments), National Environmental Policy Act documents (e.g., Environmental Impact Statements, Administrative Determinations, Environmental Assessments and Categorical Exclusion Reviews), and supporting data (e.g., automated data bases, research and evaluations).

Population: Within a species, a distinct group of individuals that tend to mate only with members of the group. Because of generations of inbreeding, members of a population tend to have similar genetic characteristics.

Potential Wild and Scenic River: A flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

Precambrian Era: The earliest era of geological history, extending from 4.5 billion to 540 million years ago and encompassing 7/8 of the earth's history. Just before the end of the Precambrian, complex multicellular organisms, including animals, evolved.

Prehistoric: Refers to the period wherein Native American cultural activities took place which were not yet influenced by contact with historic nonnative culture(s).

Prescribed Fire: The introduction of fire to an area under regulated conditions for specific management purposes.

Public Land: Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

Range Trend: The direction of change in range condition.

Raptor: Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks such as hawks, owls, vultures, and eagles.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A planning process that provides a framework for defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum of six classes: primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. The resulting analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the six classes.

Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Resource Management Plan: A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives and actions to be achieved.

Right-of-way: A permit or an easement which authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

Riparian Area: A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

River Eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through the determination (professional judgment) that it is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

Runoff: The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt.

Salable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed of by sales to the general public, or special permits to local governments and non-profit organizations.

Scenic Quality: The degree of harmony, contrast, and variety within a landscape.

Scenic River: A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

Scoping: The process of identifying the range of issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an environmental impact statement or land-use planning document. It involves both internal and public viewpoints.

Sensitive Species: All species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, live in unique habitats, or need special management. Sensitive species include threatened, endangered, and proposed species as classified by the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Shrub: A low, woody plant, usually with several stems, that may provide food and/or cover for animals.

Spawning Gravels: Stream-bottom gravels where fish deposit and fertilize their eggs. The covering of these gravels with silt can block the supply of oxygen to the eggs or serve as a cementing agent to prevent fry from emerging.

Special Recreation Management Area: Areas which require explicit recreation management to achieve recreation objectives and provide specific recreation opportunities.

Special Status Species: Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; State-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species (see BLM Manual 6840 - Special Status Species Policy).

Standard: A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., land health standards).

Substrate: The mineral or organic material that forms the bed of a stream; the base upon which an organism lives; the surface on which a plant or animal grows or is attached.

Take: As defined by the Endangered Species Act, "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct."

Thermal Cover: Vegetation or topography that prevents radiational heat loss, reduces wind chill during cold weather, and intercepts solar radiation during warm weather.

Threatened Species: Any plant or animal species defined under the Endangered Species Act as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; listings are published in the *Federal Register*.

Thrust Fault: A reverse fault that is characterized by a low angle of inclination with reference to a horizontal plane.

Turbidity: Interference to the passage of light through water due to insoluble particles of soil, organics, microorganisms, and other materials.

Uplands: Lands at higher elevations than alluvial plains or low stream terraces; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Utilization (rangeland): The proportion of the current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Utilization is usually expressed as a percentage.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features of a landscape (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that constitute the scenery of an area.

Visual Resource Management Classes (definition of).

Class I. The objective of this class is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. It is applied to designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, some natural areas, wild portions of the wild scenic rivers, and other similar situations where management activities are to be restricted.

Class II. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0 to ½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the Field Manager is required on case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards, and if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0 to ½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the Field Manager is required on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards, and if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Rehabilitation Area. Change is needed or change may add acceptable visual variety to an area. This class applies to areas where the naturalistic character has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring it back into character with the surrounding landscape. This class would apply to areas identified in the scenic evaluation where the quality class has been reduced because of unacceptable cultural modification. The contrast is inharmonious with the characteristic landscape. It may also be applied to areas that have the potential for enhancement; i.e., add acceptable visual variety to an area or site. It should be considered an interim or short-term classification until one of the other VRM class objectives can be reached through rehabilitation or enhancement. The desired visual resource management class should be identified.

Water Table: The surface in a groundwater body where the water pressure is atmospheric. It is the level at which water stands in a well that penetrates the water body just far enough to hold standing water.

Watershed: All lands that are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wild, Scenic or Recreational River: The three classes of what is traditionally referred to as a "Wild and Scenic River." Designated river segments are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, and the segments cannot overlap.

Wilderness: A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Wild River: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Wildland Fire: Any nonstructure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

Winter Range: Habitat used by wildlife during winter.

Withdrawal: An action that restricts the use of public lands by removing them from the operation of some or all of the public land or mining laws.

ACRONYMS

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
APHIS	USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
AUM	animal unit month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CVM	Contingent Valuation Model
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality (State of Wyoming)
dV	deciview
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
FR	Federal Register
FS	Forest Service
GTNP	Grand Teton National Park
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
LAC	limits of acceptable change
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NAWMP	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NER	National Elk Refuge
NPS	National Park Service
NYROP	New York River Otter Project
OHV	off-highway vehicle
PCA	Primary Conservation Area (grizzly bear)
PFO	Pinedale Field Office
PLO	Public Land Order
$\text{PM}_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter
PM_{10}	particulate matter
ppb	parts per billion

R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes Act
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
RFD	reasonably foreseeable development
RMP	resource management plan
ROS	recreation opportunity spectrum
SRMA	special recreation management area
TCP	traditional cultural properties
TES	threatened and endangered species
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	volatile organic compound
WAAQS	Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards
WARMS	Wyoming Air Resources Monitoring System
WGBMP	Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
WS	USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers
WTP	willingness to pay
WYDOT	Wyoming Department of Transportation
YNP	Yellowstone National Park

APPENDIX 1

STANDARDS FOR HEALTHY RANGELANDS AND GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE STATE OF WYOMING

INTRODUCTION

According to the Department of the Interior's final rule for grazing administration, effective August 21, 1995, the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director is responsible for the development of standards for healthy rangelands and guidelines for livestock grazing management on 18 million acres of Wyoming's public rangelands. The development and application of these standards and guidelines are to achieve the four fundamentals of rangeland health outlined in the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4180.1). Those four fundamentals are: (1) watersheds are functioning properly; (2) water, nutrients, and energy are cycling properly; (3) water quality meets State standards; and (4) habitat for special status species is protected.

Standards address the health, productivity, and sustainability of the BLM administered public rangelands and represent the minimum acceptable conditions for the public rangelands. The standards apply to all resource uses on public lands. Their application will be determined as use-specific guidelines are developed. Standards are synonymous with goals and are observed on a landscape scale. They describe healthy rangelands rather than important rangeland by-products. The achievement of a standard is determined by observing, measuring, and monitoring appropriate indicators. An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity, and distribution) can be observed, measured, or monitored based on sound scientific principles.

Guidelines provide for, and guide the development and implementation of, reasonable, responsible, and cost-effective management practices at the grazing allotment and watershed level. The guidelines in this document apply specifically to livestock grazing management practices on the BLM administered public lands. These management practices will either maintain existing desirable conditions or move rangelands toward statewide standards within reasonable timeframes. Appropriate guidelines will ensure that the resultant management practices reflect the potential for the watershed, consider other uses and natural influences, and balance resource goals with social, cultural/historic, and economic opportunities to sustain viable local communities. Guidelines, like standards, apply statewide.

Implementation of the Wyoming standards and guidelines will generally be done in the following manner: Grazing allotments or groups of allotments in a watershed will be reviewed based on the BLM's current allotment categorization and prioritization process. Allotments with existing management plans and high-priority allotments will be reviewed first. Lower priority allotments will be reviewed as time allows or when it becomes necessary for BLM to review the permit/lease for other reasons such as permit/lease transfers, permittee/lessee requests for change in use, etc. The permittees and interested publics will be

notified when allotments are scheduled for review and encouraged to participate in the review. The review will first determine if an allotment meets each of the six standards. If it does, no further action will be necessary. If any of the standards aren't being met, then rationale explaining the contributing factors will be prepared. If livestock grazing practices are found to be among the contributing factors, corrective actions consistent with the guidelines will be developed and implemented before the next grazing season in accordance with 43 CFR 4180. If a lack of data prohibits the reviewers from determining if a standard is being met, then a strategy will be developed to acquire the data in a timely manner.

On a continuing basis, the Standards for Healthy Rangelands will direct on-the-ground management on the public lands. They will serve to focus the on-going development and implementation of activity plans toward the maintenance or the attainment of healthy rangelands.

Quantifiable resource objectives and specific management practices to maintain or achieve the standards will be developed at the local BLM District and Resource Area levels and will consider all reasonable and practical options available to achieve desired results on a watershed or grazing allotment scale. The objectives shall be reflected in site-specific activity or implementation plans as well as in livestock grazing permits/leases for the public lands. These objectives and practices may be developed formally or informally through mechanisms available and suited to local needs (such as Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) efforts).

The development and implementation of standards and guidelines will enable on-the-ground management of the public rangelands to maintain a clear and responsible focus on both the health of the land and its dependent natural and human communities. This development and implementation will ensure that any mechanisms currently being employed or that may be developed in the future will maintain a consistent focus on these essential concerns. This development and implementation will also enable immediate attention to be brought to bear on existing resource concerns.

These standards and guidelines are compatible with BLM's three-tiered land use planning process. The first tier includes the laws, regulations, and policies governing BLM's administration and management of the public lands and their uses. The previously mentioned fundamentals of rangeland health specified in 43 CFR 4180.1, the requirement for BLM to develop these State (or regional) standards and guidelines, and the standards and guidelines themselves, are part of this first tier. Also part of this first tier are the specific requirements of various Federal laws and the objectives of 43 CFR 4100.2 that require BLM to consider the social and economic well-being of the local communities in its management process.

These standards and guidelines will provide for statewide consistency and guidance in the preparation, amendment, and maintenance of BLM land use plans, which represent the second tier of the planning process. The BLM land use plans provide general allocation decisions concerning the kinds of resource and land uses that can occur on the BLM administered public lands, where they can occur, and the types of conditional requirements under which they can occur. In general, the standards will be the basis for development of planning area-specific management objectives concerning rangeland health and productivity, and the guidelines will direct development of livestock grazing management actions to help accomplish those objectives.

The third tier of the BLM planning process, activity or implementation planning, is directed by the applicable land use plan and, therefore, by the standards and guidelines. The standards and guidelines, as BLM statewide policy, will also directly guide development of the site-specific objectives and the methods and practices used to implement the land use plan decisions. Activity or implementation plans contain objectives which describe the site-specific conditions desired. Grazing permits/leases for the public lands contain terms and conditions which describe specific actions required to attain or maintain

the desired conditions. Through monitoring and evaluation, the BLM, grazing permittees, and other interested parties determine if progress is being made to achieve activity plan objectives.

Wyoming rangelands support a variety of uses which are of significant economic importance to the State and its communities. These uses include oil and gas production, mining, recreation and tourism, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and livestock grazing. Rangelands also provide amenities which contribute to the quality of life in Wyoming such as open spaces, solitude, and opportunities for personal renewal. Wyoming's rangelands should be managed with consideration of the State's historical, cultural, and social development and in a manner which contributes to a diverse, balanced, competitive, and resilient economy in order to provide opportunity for economic development. Healthy rangelands can best sustain these uses.

To varying degrees, BLM management of the public lands and resources plays a role in the social and economic well-being of Wyoming communities. The National Environmental Policy Act (part of the above-mentioned first planning tier) and various other laws and regulations mandate the BLM to analyze the socioeconomic impacts of actions occurring on public rangelands. These analyses occur during the environmental analysis process of land use planning (second planning tier), where resource allocations are made, and during the environmental analysis process of activity or implementation planning (third planning tier). In many situations, factors that affect the social and economic well-being of local communities extend far beyond the scope of BLM management or individual public land users' responsibilities. In addition, since standards relate primarily to physical and biological features of the landscape, it is very difficult to provide measurable socioeconomic indicators that relate to the health of rangelands. It is important that standards be realistic and within the control of the land manager and users to achieve.

STANDARDS FOR HEALTHY PUBLIC RANGELANDS

STANDARD #1

Within the potential of the ecological site (soil type, landform, climate, and geology), soils are stable and allow for water infiltration to provide for optimal plant growth and minimal surface runoff.

THIS MEANS THAT:

The hydrologic cycle will be supported by providing for water capture, storage, and sustained release. Adequate energy flow and nutrient cycling through the system will be achieved as optimal plant growth occurs. Plant communities are highly varied within Wyoming.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Water infiltration rates;
- Soil compaction;
- Erosion (rills, gullies, pedestals, capping);
- Soil micro-organisms;
- Vegetative cover (gully bottoms and slopes); and
- Bare ground and litter.

The above indicators are applied as appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

STANDARD #2

Riparian and wetland vegetation has structural, age, and species diversity characteristic of the stage of channel succession and is resilient and capable of recovering from natural and human disturbance in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, dissipate energy, and provide for ground water recharge.

THIS MEANS THAT:

Wyoming has highly varied riparian and wetland systems on public lands. These systems vary from large rivers to small streams and from springs to large wet meadows. These systems are in various stages of natural cycles and may also reflect other disturbance that is either localized or widespread throughout the watershed. Riparian vegetation captures sediments and associated materials, thus enhancing the nutrient cycle by capturing and utilizing nutrients that would otherwise move through a system unused.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Erosion and deposition rate;
- Channel morphology and flood plain function;
- Channel succession and erosion cycle;
- Vegetative cover;
- Plant composition and diversity (species, age class, structure, successional stages, desired plant community, etc.);
- Bank stability;
- Woody debris and instream cover; and
- Bare ground and litter.

The above indicators are applied as appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

STANDARD #3

Upland vegetation on each ecological site consists of plant communities appropriate to the site which are resilient, diverse, and able to recover from natural and human disturbance.

THIS MEANS THAT:

In order to maintain desirable conditions and/or recover from disturbance within acceptable timeframes, plant communities must have the components present to support the nutrient cycle and adequate energy flow. Plants depend on nutrients in the soil and energy derived from sunlight. Nutrients stored in the soil are used over and over by plants, animals, and micro organisms. The amount of nutrients available and the speed with which they cycle among plants, animals, and the soil are fundamental components of rangeland health. The amount, timing, and distribution of energy captured through photosynthesis are fundamental to the function of rangeland ecosystems.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Vegetative cover;
- Plant composition and diversity (species, age class, structure, successional stages, desired plant community, etc.);
- Bare ground and litter;
- Erosion (rills, gullies, pedestals, capping); and
- Water infiltration rates.

The above indicators are applied as appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

STANDARD #4

Rangelands are capable of sustaining viable populations and a diversity of native plant and animal species appropriate to the habitat. Habitats that support or could support threatened species, endangered species, species of special concern, or sensitive species will be maintained or enhanced.

THIS MEANS THAT:

The management of Wyoming rangelands will achieve or maintain adequate habitat conditions that support diverse plant and animal species. These may include listed threatened or endangered species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife-designated), species of special concern (BLM-designated), and other sensitive species (State of Wyoming-designated). The intent of this standard is to allow the listed species to recover and be delisted, and to avoid or prevent additional species becoming listed.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Noxious weeds;
- Species diversity;
- Age class distribution;
- All indicators associated with the upland and riparian standards;
- Population trends; and
- Habitat fragmentation.

The above indicators are applied as appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

STANDARD #5

Water quality meets State standards.

THIS MEANS THAT:

The State of Wyoming is authorized to administer the Clean Water Act. BLM management actions or use authorizations will comply with all Federal and State water quality laws, rules and regulations to address water quality issues that originate on public lands. Provisions for the establishment of water quality standards are included in the Clean Water Act, as amended, and the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act, as amended. Regulations are found in Part 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in *Wyoming's Water Quality Rules and Regulations*. The latter regulations contain Quality Standards for Wyoming Surface Waters.

Natural processes and human actions influence the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water. Water quality varies from place to place with the seasons, the climate, and the kind substrate through which water moves. Therefore, the assessment of water quality takes these factors into account.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Chemical characteristics (e.g., pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen);
- Physical characteristics (e.g., sediment, temperature, color); and
- Biological characteristics (e.g., macro- and micro-invertebrates, fecal coliform, and plant and animal species).

STANDARD #6

Air quality meets State standards.

THIS MEANS THAT:

The State of Wyoming is authorized to administer the Clean Air Act. BLM management actions or use authorizations will comply with all Federal and State air quality laws, rules, regulations and standards. Provisions for the establishment of air quality standards are included in the Clean Air Act, as amended, and the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act, as amended. Regulations are found in Part 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in *Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations*.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Particulate matter;
- Sulfur dioxide;
- Photochemical oxidants (ozone);
- Volatile organic compounds (hydrocarbons);
- Nitrogen oxides;
- Carbon monoxide;
- Odors; and
- Visibility.

BLM WYOMING GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

1. Timing, duration, and levels of authorized grazing will ensure that adequate amounts of vegetative ground cover, including standing plant material and litter, remain after authorized use to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage, stabilize soils, allow the release of sufficient water to

maintain system function, and to maintain subsurface soil conditions that support permeability rates and other processes appropriate to the site.

2. Grazing management practices will restore, maintain, or improve riparian plant communities. Grazing management strategies consider hydrology, physical attributes, and potential for the watershed and the ecological site. Grazing management will maintain adequate residual plant cover to provide for plant recovery, residual forage, sediment capture, energy dissipation, and ground water recharge.
3. Range improvement practices (instream structures, fences, water troughs, etc.) in and adjacent to riparian areas will ensure that stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions appropriate to climate and landform are maintained or enhanced. The development of springs, seeps, or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological and hydrological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural, historical, and archaeological values associated with the water source. Range improvements will be located away from riparian areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian function.
4. Grazing practices that consider the biotic communities as more than just a forage base will be designed in order to ensure that the appropriate kinds and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow are maintained or enhanced.
5. Continuous season-long or other grazing management practices that hinder the completion of plants' life-sustaining reproductive and/or nutrient cycling processes will be modified to ensure adequate periods of rest at the appropriate times. The rest periods will provide for seedling establishment or other necessary processes at levels sufficient to move the ecological site condition toward the resource objective and subsequent achievement of the standard.
6. Grazing management practices and range improvements will adequately protect vegetative cover and physical conditions and maintain, restore, or enhance water quality to meet resource objectives. The effects of new range improvements (water developments, fences, etc.) on the health and function of rangelands will be carefully considered prior to their implementation.
7. Grazing management practices will incorporate the kinds and amounts of use that will restore, maintain, or enhance habitats to assist in the recovery of Federal threatened and endangered species or the conservation of federally-listed species of concern and other State-designated special status species. Grazing management practices will maintain existing habitat or facilitate vegetation change toward desired habitats. Grazing management will consider threatened and endangered species and their habitats.
8. Grazing management practices and range improvements will be designed to maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native animal populations and plant communities. This will involve emphasizing native plant species in the support of ecological function and incorporating the use of non-native species only in those situations in which native plant species are not available in sufficient quantities or are incapable of maintaining or achieving properly functioning conditions and biological health.
9. Grazing management practices on uplands will maintain desired plant communities or facilitate change toward desired plant communities.

DEFINITIONS FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

ACTIVITY PLANS

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), Habitat Management Plans (HMPs), Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Wild Horse Management Plans (WHMPs), and other plans developed at the local level to address specific concerns and accomplish specific objectives.

COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CRM)

A group of people working together to develop common resource goals and resolve natural resource concerns. CRM is a people process that strives for win-win situations through consensus-based decision making.

DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY

A plant community which produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.

ECOLOGICAL SITE

An area of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other areas both in its ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and in its response to management.

EROSION

(v.) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. (n.) The land surface worn away by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Grazing management practices include such things as grazing systems (rest-rotation, deferred rotation, etc.), timing and duration of grazing, herding, salting, etc. They do not include physical range improvements.

GUIDELINES (For Grazing Management)

Guidelines provide for, and guide the development and implementation of, reasonable, responsible, and cost-effective management actions at the allotment and watershed level which move rangelands toward statewide standards or maintain existing desirable conditions. Appropriate guidelines will ensure that the resultant management actions reflect the potential for the watershed, consider other uses and natural influences, and balance resource goals with social, cultural/historic, and economic opportunities to sustain viable local communities. Guidelines, and therefore, the management actions they engender, are based on sound science, past and present management experience, and public input.

INDICATOR

An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity, and distribution) can be observed, measured, or monitored based on sound scientific principles. An indicator can be evaluated at a site- or species-specific level. Monitoring of an indicator must be able to show change within timeframes acceptable to management and be capable of showing how the health of the ecosystem is changing in response to specific management actions. Selection of the appropriate indicators to be observed, measured, or monitored in a particular allotment is a critical aspect of early communication among the interests involved on-the-ground. The most useful indicators are those for

which change or trend can be easily quantified and for which agreement as to the significance of the indicator is broad based.

LITTER

The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface, essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetal material.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management actions are the specific actions prescribed by the BLM to achieve resource objectives, land use allocations, or other program or multiple use goals. Management actions include both grazing management practices and range improvements.

OBJECTIVE

An objective is a site-specific statement of a desired rangeland condition. It may contain either or both qualitative elements and quantitative elements. Objectives frequently speak to change. They are the focus of monitoring and evaluation activities at the local level. Monitoring of the indicators would show negative changes or positive changes. Objectives should focus on indicators of greatest interest for the area in question.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements include such things as corrals, fences, water developments (reservoirs, spring developments, pipelines, wells, etc.) and land treatments (prescribed fire, herbicide treatments, mechanical treatments, etc.).

RANGELAND

Land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. This includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially when routine management of that vegetation is accomplished mainly through manipulation of grazing. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

RANGELAND HEALTH

The degree to which the integrity of the soil and ecological processes of rangeland ecosystems are sustained.

RIPARIAN

An area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lakeshores and streambanks are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not have vegetation dependent on free water in the soil.

STANDARDS

Standards are synonymous with goals and are observed on a landscape scale. Standards apply to rangeland health and not to the important by-products of healthy rangelands. Standards relate to the current capability or realistic potential of a specific site to produce these by-products, not to the presence or absence of the products themselves. It is the sustainability of the processes, or rangeland health, that produces these by-products.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Terms and conditions are very specific land use requirements that are made a part of the land use authorization in order to assure maintenance or attainment of the standard. Terms and conditions may

incorporate or reference the appropriate portions of activity plans (e.g., Allotment Management Plans). In other words, where an activity plan exists that contains objectives focused on meeting the standards, compliance with the plan may be the only term and condition necessary in that allotment.

UPLAND

Those portions of the landscape which do not receive additional moisture for plant growth from run-off, streamflow, etc. Typically these are hills, ridgetops, valley slopes, and rolling plains.

APPENDIX 2

WYOMING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR SURFACE-DISTURBING AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are primarily for the purpose of attaining statewide consistency in how requirements are determined for avoiding and mitigating environmental impacts and resource and land use conflicts. Consistency in this sense does not mean that identical requirements would be applied for all similar types of land use activities that may cause similar types of impacts. Nor does it mean that the requirements or guidelines for a single land use activity would be identical in all areas.

There are two ways the mitigation guidelines are used in the resource management plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) process: (1) as part of the planning criteria in developing the RMP alternatives, and (2) in the analytical processes of both developing the alternatives and analyzing the impacts of the alternatives. In the first case, an assumption is made that any one or more of the mitigations will be appropriately included as conditions of relevant actions being proposed or considered in each alternative. In the second case, the mitigations are used (1) to develop a baseline for measuring and comparing impacts among the alternatives; (2) to identify other actions and alternatives that should be considered, and (3) to help determine whether more stringent or less stringent mitigations should be considered.

The EIS for the RMP does not decide or dictate the exact wording or inclusion of these guidelines. Rather, the guidelines are used in the RMP EIS process as a tool to help develop the RMP alternatives and to provide a baseline for comparative impact analysis in arriving at RMP decisions. These guidelines will be used in the same manner in analyzing activity plans and other site-specific proposals. These guidelines and their wording are matters of policy. As such, specific wording is subject to change primarily through administrative review, not through the RMP EIS process. Any further changes that may be made in the continuing refinement of these guidelines and any development of program-specific standard stipulations will be handled in another forum, including appropriate public involvement and input.

PURPOSE

The purposes of the "Wyoming BLM Mitigation Guidelines" are (1) to reserve, for the BLM, the right to modify the operations of all surface and other human presence disturbance activities as part of the statutory requirements for environmental protection, and (2) to inform a potential lessee, permittee, or operator of the requirements that must be met when using BLM-administered public lands. These guidelines have been written in a format that will allow for (1) their direct use as stipulations, and (2) the addition of specific or specialized mitigation following the submission of a detailed plan of development or other project proposal, and an environmental analysis.

Those resource activities or programs currently without a standardized set of permit or operation stipulations can use the mitigation guidelines as stipulations or as conditions of approval, or as a baseline for developing specific stipulations for a given activity or program.

Because use of the mitigation guidelines was integrated into the RMP EIS process and will be integrated into the site-specific environmental analysis process, the application of stipulations or mitigation requirements derived through the guidelines will provide more consistency with planning decisions and plan implementation than has occurred in the past. Application of the mitigation guidelines to all surface and other human presence disturbance activities concerning BLM-administered public lands and resources will provide more uniformity in mitigation than has occurred in the past.

MITIGATION GUIDELINES

1. Surface Disturbance Mitigation Guideline

Surface disturbance will be prohibited in any of the following areas or conditions. The Authorized Officer may approve exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in writing, including documented supporting analysis.

- a. Slopes in excess of 25 percent.
- b. Within important scenic areas (Class I and II Visual Resource Management Areas).
- c. Within 500 feet of surface water and/or riparian areas.
- d. Within either one-quarter mile or the visual horizon (whichever is closer) of historic trails.
- e. Construction with frozen material or during periods when the soil material is saturated or when watershed damage is likely to occur.

Guidance

The intent of the SURFACE DISTURBANCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is to inform interested parties (potential lessees, permittees, or operators) that when one or more of the five (1a through 1e) conditions exist, surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited unless or until a permittee or his designated representative and the surface management agency (SMA) arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. This negotiation will occur prior to development.

Specific criteria (for example, 500 feet from water) have been established based upon the best information available. However, such items as geographical areas and seasons must be delineated at the field level.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (for example, activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

2. Wildlife Mitigation Guideline

- a. To protect important big game winter habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from November 15 to April 30 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply to defined big game birthing areas from May 1 to June 30.

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

The Authorized Officer may approve exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year in writing, including documented supporting analysis.

b. To protect important raptor and/or sage and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from February 1 to July 31 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply to defined raptor and game bird winter concentration areas from November 15 to April 30.

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

The Authorized Officer may approve exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year in writing, including documented supporting analysis.

c. No activities or surface use will be allowed on that portion of the authorization area identified within (legal description) for the purpose of protecting (for example, sage/sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds, and/or other species/activities) habitat.

The Authorized Officer may approve exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year in writing, including documented supporting analysis.

d. Portions of the authorized use area legally described as (legal description), are known or suspected to be essential habitat for (name) which is a threatened or endangered species. Prior to conducting any onsite activities, the lessee/permittee will be required to conduct inventories or studies in accordance with BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines to verify the presence or absence of this species. In the event that (name) occurrence is identified, the lessee/permittee will be required to modify operational plans to include the protection requirements of this species and its habitat (for example, seasonal use restrictions, occupancy limitations, facility design modifications).

Guidance

The WILDLIFE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended to provide two basic types of protection: seasonal restriction (2a and 2b) and prohibition of activities or surface use (2c). Item 2d is specific to situations involving threatened or endangered species. Legal descriptions will ultimately be required and should be measurable and legally definable. There are no minimum subdivision requirements at this time. The area delineated can and should be defined as necessary, based upon current biological data, prior to the time of processing an application and issuing the use authorization. The legal description must eventually become a part of the condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, and/or other use authorization.

The seasonal restriction section identifies three example groups of species and delineates three similar time frame restrictions. The big game species including elk, moose, deer, antelope, and bighorn sheep, all require protection of crucial winter range between November 15 and April 30. Elk and bighorn sheep also require protection from disturbance from May 1 to June 30, when they typically occupy distinct calving and lambing areas. Raptors include eagles, accipiters, falcons (peregrine, prairie, and merlin), buteos (ferruginous and Swainson's hawks), osprey, and burrowing owls. The raptors and sage and sharp-tailed grouse require nesting protection between February 1 and July 31. The same birds often require protection from disturbance from November 15 through April 30 while they occupy winter concentration areas.

Item 2c, the prohibition of activity or surface use, is intended for protection of specific wildlife habitat areas or values within the use area that cannot be protected by using seasonal restrictions. These areas or

values must be factors that limit life-cycle activities (for example, sage grouse strutting grounds, known threatened and endangered species habitat).

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (for example, activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

3. Cultural Resource Mitigation Guideline

When a proposed discretionary land use has potential for affecting the characteristics which qualify a cultural property for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), mitigation will be considered. In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, procedures specified in 36 CFR 800 will be used in consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer in arriving at determinations regarding the need and type of mitigation to be required.

Guidance

The preferred strategy for treating potential adverse effects on cultural properties is "avoidance." If avoidance involves project relocation, the new project area may also require cultural resource inventory. If avoidance is imprudent or unfeasible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative measures.

Reports documenting results of cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and the establishment of mitigation alternatives (if necessary) shall be written according to standards contained in BLM Manuals, the cultural resource permit stipulations, and in other policy issued by the BLM. These reports must provide sufficient information for Section 106 consultation. The appropriate BLM cultural resource specialist shall review reports for adequacy. If cultural properties on, or eligible for, the National Register are located within these areas of potential impact and cannot be avoided, the Authorized Officer shall begin the Section 106 consultation process in accordance with the Wyoming Protocol to the National Programmatic Agreement.

Mitigation measures shall be implemented according to the mitigation plan approved by the BLM Authorized Officer. The land use applicant according to BLM specifications usually prepares such plans. Mitigation plans will be reviewed as part of Section 106 consultation for National Register eligible or listed properties. The extent and nature of recommended mitigation shall be commensurate with the significance of the cultural resource involved and the anticipated extent of damage. Reasonable costs for mitigation will be borne by the land use applicant. Mitigation must be cost effective and realistic. It must consider project requirements and limitations, input from concerned parties, and be BLM approved or BLM formulated.

Mitigation of paleontological and natural history sites will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as site significance, economics, safety, and project urgency must be taken into account when making a decision to mitigate. Authority to protect (through mitigation) such values is provided for in FLPMA, Section 102(a)(8). When avoidance is not possible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative protection measures.

4. Special Resource Mitigation Guideline

To protect (resource value), activities or surface use will not be allowed (that is, within a specific distance of the resource value or between date to date) in (legal description).

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

The Authorized Officer may approve exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year in writing, including documented supporting analysis.

Example Resource Categories (Select or identify category and specific resource value):

- a. Recreation areas.
- b. Special natural history or paleontological features.
- c. Special management areas.
- d. Sections of major rivers.
- e. Prior existing rights-of-way.
- f. Occupied dwellings.
- g. Other (specify).

Guidance

The SPECIAL RESOURCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended for use only in site-specific situations where one of the first three general mitigation guidelines will not adequately address the concern. The resource value, location, and specific restrictions must be clearly identified. A detailed plan addressing specific mitigation and special restrictions will be required prior to disturbance or development and will become a condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, or other use authorization.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (for example, activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

5. No Surface Occupancy Guideline

No Surface Occupancy will be allowed on the following described lands (legal description) because of (resource value).

Example Resource Categories (Select or identify category and specific resource value):

- a. Recreation Areas (for example, campgrounds, historic trails, national monuments).
- b. Major reservoirs/dams.

- c. Special management area (for example, known threatened or endangered species habitat, areas suitable for consideration for wild and scenic rivers designation).
- d. Other (specify).

Guidance

The NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO) MITIGATION GUIDELINE is intended for use only when other mitigation is determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest and is the only alternative to "no development" or "no leasing." The legal description and resource value of concern must be identified and be tied to an NSO land use planning decision.

Waiver of, or exception(s) to, the NSO requirement will be subject to the same test used to initially justify its imposition. If, upon evaluation of a site-specific proposal, it is found that less restrictive mitigation would adequately protect the public interest or value of concern, then a waiver or exception to the NSO requirement is possible. The record must show that because conditions or uses have changed, less restrictive requirements will protect the public interest. An environmental analysis must be conducted and documented (for example, environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, etc., as necessary) in order to provide the basis for a waiver or exception to an NSO planning decision. Modification of the NSO requirement will pertain only to refinement or correction of the location(s) to which it applied. If the waiver, exception, or modification is found to be consistent with the intent of the planning decision, it may be granted. If it is found inconsistent with the intent of the planning decision, a plan amendment would be required before the waiver, exception, or modification could be granted.

When considering the "no development" or "no leasing" option, a rigorous test must be met and fully documented in the record. This test must be based upon stringent standards described in the land use planning document. Since rejection of all development rights is more severe than the most restrictive mitigation requirement, the record must show that consideration was given to development subject to reasonable mitigation, including "no surface occupancy." The record must also show that other mitigation was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the public interest. A "no development" or "no leasing" decision should not be made solely because it appears that conventional methods of development would be unfeasible, especially where an NSO restriction may be acceptable to a potential permittee. In such cases, the potential permittee should have the opportunity to decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposal (or accept the use authorization), recognizing that an NSO restriction is involved.

APPENDIX 3

AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS

The basic framework for controlling air pollutants in the United States is mandated by the 1970 Clean Air Act and its amendments, and the 1999 Regional Haze Regulations. The Clean Air Act addresses criteria air pollutants, State and national ambient air quality standards for criteria air pollutants, and the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program. The Regional Haze Regulations address visibility impairment.

POLLUTANTS

Air Pollutants addressed in this study include criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants (HAP) and sulfur and nitrogen compounds.

Criteria Pollutants

Criteria pollutants are those for which national standards of concentration have been established. Pollutant concentrations greater than these standards represent a risk to human health. Criteria pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb).

CO is an odorless, colorless gas formed during any combustion process, such as operation of engines, fireplaces, furnaces, etc. High concentrations of CO affect the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood and can lead to unconsciousness and asphyxiation. Forest fires are a natural source of CO.

NO₂ is a red-brown gas formed during the operation of internal combustion engines. Such engines emit a mixture of nitrogen gases, collectively called nitrogen oxides (NO_x). NO₂ can contribute to brown cloud conditions, and can convert to ammonium and nitrate particles and nitric acid, which can cause visibility impairment and acid rain. Bacterial action in soil can be a natural source of nitrogen compounds.

O₃ is a faintly blue gas that is generally not emitted directly into the atmosphere, but is formed from NO_x and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. As stated above, internal combustion engines are the main source of NO_x. Volatile organic compounds like terpenes are very reactive. Sources of VOC include paint, varnish and some types of vegetation. The faint acrid smell common after thunderstorms is due to ozone formation by lightning. O₃ is a strong oxidizing chemical that can burn lungs and eyes, and damage plants.

SO₂ forms during combustion from trace levels of sulfur in coal or diesel fuel, and can convert to ammonium sulfate (SO₄⁻) and sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄), which can cause visibility impairment and acid rain. Volcanoes are a natural source of SO₂.

Particulate matter (i.e., soil particles, hair, pollen, etc.) is essentially the small particles suspended in the air, which settle to the ground slowly and may be re-suspended if disturbed. Separate allowable concentration levels for particulate matter are based on the relative size of the particle:

PM₁₀, particles with diameters less than 10 micrometers, are small enough to be inhaled and can cause adverse health effects.

PM_{2.5}, particles with diameters less than 2.5 micrometers, are so small that they can be drawn deeply into the lungs and cause serious health problems. These particles are also the main cause of visibility impairment.

Hazardous Air Pollutants

There are a wide variety of hazardous air pollutants including N-hexane, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene, formaldehyde and benzene. Although hazardous air pollutants do not have federal standards, they do have “significance thresholds” set by various States and are typically evaluated for potential chronic inhalation and cancer risks.

Hazardous air pollutant emissions are associated with industrial activity, including oil and gas operations, refineries, paint facilities, wood working shops and dry cleaners.

Sulfur and Nitrogen Compounds

Sulfur and nitrogen compounds that can be deposited on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems include nitric acid (HNO₃), nitrate (NO₃), ammonium (NH₄), and sulfate (SO₄).

Nitric acid (HNO₃) and nitrate (NO₃) are not emitted directly into the air, but form in the atmosphere from industrial and automotive emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). Sulfate (SO₄) is formed in the atmosphere from industrial emission of sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Deposition of HNO₃, NO₃ and SO₄ can adversely affect plant growth, soil chemistry, lichens, and petroglyphs.

Ammonium (NH₄) is associated with feedlots and agricultural fertilization. Deposition of NH₄ can affect vegetation. While deposition may be beneficial as a fertilizer, it can adversely affect the timing of plant growth and dormancy.

WYOMING AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards (WAAQS) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set the absolute upper limits for criteria air pollutant concentrations at all locations to which the public has access. The WAAQS and NAAQS are legally enforceable standards. Concentrations above the WAAQS and NAAQS represent a risk to human health. State standards must be equally or more strict than federal standards.

The EPA has developed standards for each criteria pollutant for a specific averaging time. Short averaging times (1, 3, and 24 hours) address short-term exposure, while the annual standards address long-term exposure. Annual standards are set to lower allowable concentrations than are short-term standards to recognize the cumulative effects of long-term exposure.

**TABLE 1
NATIONAL AND WYOMING AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
FOR CRITERIA POLLUTANTS**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	NAAQS (mg/m ³)	WAAQS (mg/m ³)
Carbon monoxide (CO)	1 hour	40,000	40,000
	8 hour	10,000	10,000
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Annual	100	100
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	3 hour	1300	695
	24 hour	365	260
	Annual	80	60
Ozone (O ₃)	1 hour	235	
	8 hour	157	157
Particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	24 hour	150	150
	Annual	50	50
Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	24 hour	65	
	Annual	15	

PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION

The goal of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program is to ensure that air quality in areas with clean air does not significantly deteriorate, while maintaining a margin for future industrial growth. Under PSD, each area in the United States is classified by the air quality in that region:

- PSD Class I Areas: Areas with pristine air quality, such as wilderness areas, national parks and Indian reservations, are accorded the strictest protection. Only very small incremental increases in concentration are allowed in order to maintain the very clean air quality in these areas.
- PSD Class II Areas: Essentially, all areas that are not designated Class I are designated Class II. Moderate incremental increases in concentration are allowed, although the concentrations are not allowed to reach the concentrations set by Wyoming and federal standards (WAAQS and NAAQS).
- PSD Class III Areas: No areas have yet been designated Class III. Concentrations would be allowed to increase all the way up to the WAAQS and NAAQS.

**TABLE 2
PSD INCREMENTS**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	PSD Increment (mg/m ³)	
		Class I	Class II
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Annual	2.5	25
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	3 hour	25	512
	24 hour	5	91
	Annual	2	20
Particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	24 hour	8	30
	Annual	4	17

PSD Class I areas in the Snake River region include the Bridger, Fitzpatrick and Washakie Wilderness Areas and Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Special status Class II areas include the Popo Agie Wilderness Area and the Wind River Roadless Area. The Snake River project area is also classified as PSD Class II.

Comparisons of potential NO₂ and SO₂ concentrations with PSD increments are intended only to evaluate a threshold of concern and do not represent a regulatory PSD Increment Consumption analysis. Consumption analyses are applied to large industrial sources and are solely the responsibility of the State and the Environmental Protection Agency.

REGIONAL HAZE REGULATIONS

Visibility impairment is an indicator of air pollution concentration. Visibility can be defined as the furthest distance at which one can perceive color, contrast and detail. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is the main cause of visibility impairment. Visual range, one of several ways to express visibility, is the furthest distance a person can distinguish a dark landscape feature from a light background like the sky. Without human-caused visibility impairment, natural visual range would average about 150 miles in the western United States and about 70 miles in the eastern United States.

The Regional Haze Regulations were developed by the EPA in response to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. They are intended to maintain and improve visibility in PSD Class I areas across the United States, so that visibility in these areas is returned to natural conditions. These regulations require States to demonstrate reasonable progress in maintaining or improving visibility in PSD Class I areas.

APPENDIX 4

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC LAND PARCELS

Parcels are listed and numbered from north to south. Acreages are estimated as closely as possible given the changing nature of the river. Boundary lines for these parcels include the thread of the Snake River, which regularly changes; as a result, the parcels shrink and grow in size with changes in river morphology. Parcels without realty case numbers are U.S. surface that was not included in the litigation of ownership of riparian lands along the river. Case number 111691 includes all lands adjacent to State of Wyoming lands, and includes several parcels along the length of the river.

Parcel Number	Realty Case Number	Location	Size (approx)	Description
1	WYW-111703	T42N, R116W, Sec 9, 10	19 acres	This parcel lies mostly between the levees along the right bank of the Snake River. It lies within the boundary of Grand Teton National Park, and is over 1 mile long. The parcel became part of GTNP in the ownership litigation.
2	WYW-111691	T42N, R116W, Sec. 16 NW	178 acres	The parcel lies completely inside the levee along the right bank. This parcel lies adjacent to a parcel of State land within the boundary of Grand Teton National Park, and directly west of the Jackson Hole Airport. The parcel became part of GTNP in the ownership litigation.
3	WYW-111691	T42N, R116W, Sec 20, 21	12 acres	Lies between the levees, along the right bank and adjacent to the south boundary of GTNP. Contains cottonwood trees and grassy and gravelly openings. Wildlife and visual resource values. Access is from the river or through the Park. A portion of parcel 3 lies inside the boundary of GTNP and became part of GTNP in the ownership litigation. (Map 3)
4	No case number	T42N, R116W, Sec. 20 NESE	5 acres	Lies inside the levee along the right bank. This parcel appears to be U.S. property that was not litigated in the 1970's suits. Consists mostly of a gravel bar. Access is from the river. (Map 3)
5	111691	T42N, R116W, Sec. 20 SESE	0 acres	Lies inside the levee along the right bank, and adjacent to approximately 40 acres of State land. The parcel has been eroded away. (Map 3)
6	WYW-121768, 121769, 121770	T42N, R116W, Sec 29 NE	25 acres	Portions of two large islands. Much of the area is gravel bar and subject to annual flooding. Some cottonwood trees are present on the south end. Access is from the river only. (Map 3)

7	WYW-111693	T41N, R116W, Sec 5,6	78 acres	Lies both within and outside the levee along the right bank, at the confluence of the Gros Ventre River. Includes a portion of a large island, and about 30 acres of uplands outside the levee; a portion of this area is marshy and provides good wildlife habitat. Many cottonwood trees on uplands and the island. Some cold springs. The boundaries of this parcel were fixed in the judgment. Access is from the river only. (Map 4)
8	No case number	T42N, R116W, Sec 34	41 acres	This parcel lies on the left bank of the Gros Ventre river, adjacent to Grand Teton National Park and across the river from the Jackson Hole Country Club. It was not disputed in the 1979 suits. Cottonwood riparian area. A portion of the area has been mined for gravel. Provides scenic backdrop to the river as viewed from the golf course. Access is through the Park or from the river. Some historical ranching and rural trash dumps. The fence is not on line, and livestock have grazed part of the parcel. (Map 4)
9	WYW-112092	T41N, R116W, Sec. 6, 7, 12, 13	295 acres	Lies within and outside the levee along the left bank, beginning below the confluence of the Gros Ventre in section 6 and extending almost to the Wilson Bridge; about 3 miles in length. Known as the Walton Greenway or Rabbit Flats. A large area outside the levee contains extensive cottonwood woodland. The Walton Ranch holds a grazing authorization on this parcel. The parcel did not meet Standard #3. A quarry on the north end of the area on private land generates fairly heavy truck traffic. This parcel is very popular with local people as a recreation area for hiking, dog walking, cross country skiing, etc. Adjacent to Emily Stevens Park at the south end. Access is available for foot traffic from Wyoming Highway 22; the levee road is gated and locked and allows only quarry traffic and other authorized vehicles. The south boundary line of the parcel is fixed in accordance with the judgment. The judgment also specified the closing of the levee road, and that the United States would maintain the parcel "in an optimum condition for the protection and preservation of aquatic and wildlife habitat". Mineral extraction is prohibited, and a portion of the parcel is closed to gravel extraction, in accordance with the judgment. There are patches of young to middle-aged cottonwoods within the levees. There is a potentially significant historic site, consisting of an old roadbed and causeway. (Map 5)
10	WYW-111691	T41N, R117W, Sec. 13 NENE	25 acres	Lies along the left bank, adjacent to a parcel that was State land at the time of the judgments, about in the middle of the Walton Greenway. Characteristics, access, and condition similar to that of the Walton Greenway. (Map 5)

11	WYW-111695	T41N, R117W, Sec. 24 NWNW	3 acres	Lies along the right bank, both inside and outside the levee. This is the northernmost "rabbit ear" of Rabbit Flats. Cottonwood riparian; a small channel runs through it. Boundary line is fixed in the judgment. Access from the levee from the Wilson Bridge boat ramp. (Map 5)
12	WYW-111710	T41N, R117W, Sec. 24	6 acres	Lies along the right bank, both inside and outside the levee. The southern "rabbit ear". Characteristics, access, and condition similar to those of the northern rabbit ear. There is a gravel processing operation on private land adjacent to this parcel. (Map 5)
13	WYW-112088	T41N, R117W, Sec. 23-24	11 acres	Lies along the right bank, outside the levee. Just north of the Wilson bridge. Access from a road off of the Teton Village road. This parcel contains the Wilson Bridge boat ramp. Public land extends to the levee only, not to the water's edge. The easement is limited to boat launching and takeout only. This boat ramp is a major river access point both for leaving the river and for launching. Parking at the area is very limited. (Map 5)
14	WYW-121762	T41N, R117W, Sec. 24	5 acres	Lies along the left bank, north of the Wilson bridge and adjacent to Emily Stevens Park. Cottonwood riparian area. Access from Wyoming Highway 22. (Map 5)
15	WYW-121772	T41N, R117W, Sec. 26	21 acres	Lies along the left bank, south of the Wilson bridge. Wooded islands. This area is under grazing lease to the R. Bruce Porter Estate. Cottonwood riparian area with grassy meadow openings. Access is from the river only. (Map 6)
16	WYW-111714	T41N, R117W, Sec. 26, 35	51 acres	Lies along the left bank, inside the levee. Adjacent to and under grazing lease with parcel 15. Similar conditions and uses exist. Access from the river only. (Map 6)
17	WYW-111713	T41N, R117W, Sec. 26	19 acres	Lies along the right bank in the center of section 26, inside and outside the levee. The cottonwood and understory shrub condition is very good. Access from the levee south from Wilson Bridge. (Map 6)
18	WYW-121767	T41N, R117W, Sec 26	25 acres	Lies along the right bank, inside and outside the levee. Condition similar to parcel 17. The south boundary of the parcel is fixed in the judgment. Access from the levee south from Wilson Bridge. There has been unauthorized camping on the parcel in the past. (Map 6)
19	WYW-111691	T41N, R117W, Sec. 35	144 acres	Lies along the right bank, mostly outside the levee. Both north and south boundaries are fixed. Cottonwood riparian area, with several channels and old oxbows present. Access from the levee south from Wilson Bridge. Popular with locals for recreation, horse trails, ATV trails. (Map 6)
20	No case number	T40N, R117W, Sec. 10	58 acres	Lies along the right bank. Access from the river only. Includes upland area and a bluff above the river. Cottonwood trees. (Map 7)

21	WYW-111691	T40N, R117W, Sec. 14	61 acres	Lies on the left bank, mostly outside the levee; extends for about ½ mile east of the river. Cottonwood riparian area with several channels (spring creeks) across area. Access from the river only. Elk migration route to the South Park feedground. Did not meet land health Standard #3; cause not yet determined or verified. (Map 7)
22	WYW-115113	T40N, R117W, Sec. 14	34 acres	Lies along the right bank, inside and outside the levee. Lowland area with many river channels present and a bluff above the river. Access from the river only. (Map 7)
23	WYW-111715	T40N, R117W, Sec. 24, 25	89 acres	Consists of 2 parcels lying along the right bank, mostly outside the levee. Good condition cottonwood lowland, with channels running through. Parcel under grazing lease to Snake River Ranch Co. There is access from the Fall Creek Road, a Teton County road. This parcel was resurveyed in 1998. This parcel met the land health standards. A couple small buildings and several corrals are located on the parcel. (Map 8)
24	No case number	T40N, R117W, Sec. 25; T40N, R116W, Sec. 30	2 acres	Lies along the right bank. Access from the river only. There is no levee in this area. Former size about 150 acres; most of this has been lost due to erosion by the shifting riverbed. The parcel may have eroded completely away. (Map 8)
25	WYW-111691	T40N, R116W, Sec. 28, 29, 32, 33, 34	210 acres	Lies along the left bank, just upstream of the South Park bridge, and extends for about 1.5 miles. The parcel has been transferred to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department through the R&PP process and is now a part of the South Park Elk Feedground. (Map 9)
26	No case number	T40N, R116W, Sec. 34	23 acres	Lies along the right bank, on both sides of U.S. Highway 191/189 at the South Park Bridge. Grassy meadow, cottonwood trees, and willow bars. Supports some recreation from the adjacent Evans trailer park. Gravel extraction from the river is taking place just downstream of this parcel. Access from U.S. Highway 191/189 and the Munger Mountain road. The area on the west side of U.S. Highway 189/191 is a popular vehicle access for shore fishing. (Map 9)
27	No case number	T40N, R116W, Sec 27 SESW	40 acres	Parcel is not on the river; this is the trash transfer station site. Access on U.S. Highway 191/189. (Map 9)

APPENDIX 5

DISPOSAL CRITERIA

The Federal Land Policy Act of 1976 provides for retention of the public lands in federal ownership and management by BLM for multiple use and sustained yield of the lands and resources, with environmental integrity. Public lands may be transferred from BLM to other federal agencies for management. Disposal by sale, exchange or Recreation and Public Purpose patent remains an option if such an action will serve an important objective and have a public benefit.

Prior to any disposal, a site-specific analysis must determine that the lands considered contain no significant wildlife, recreation, or other resource values the loss of which cannot be mitigated; have no overriding public values; and represent no substantial public investments. Disposal must serve the public interest.

EXCHANGES

The policy is to promote land exchanges that serve the national interest and are beneficial to BLM programs or which support the programs of other agencies (reference Sections 102, 205, and 206 or FLPMA).

Transfer of leasable minerals out of Federal ownership should be avoided except where non-Federal leasable minerals are to be received in return. It is preferable to trade both surface and subsurface (mineral) estates.

Exchanges should involve lands similar in character and/or value. Proposals will not be considered where it is the intent to transfer acquired lands out of Federal ownership or control.

Exchanges should not be made solely for the purpose of blocking up Federal land ownership.

SALES

Public land sale proposals are the result of either a BLM initiative or in response to expressed public interest or need. Lands to be considered for disposal, at a minimum, must meet the following criteria as outlined in Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

1. They are difficult and uneconomical to manage, and are not suitable for management by another Federal agency.
2. Disposal would serve important public objectives, including but not limited to community expansion or economic development that could not be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public lands and which outweigh other public objectives or values.
3. Such tract was acquired for a specific purpose, and the tract is no longer required for that purpose or any other Federal purpose.

SALES/EXCHANGES INVOLVING WETLANDS

Bureau policy is to retain wetlands in Federal ownership unless Federal, State, public and private institutions, and parties have demonstrated the ability to maintain, restore, and protect wetlands and riparian habitats on a continuous basis (BLM Manual 6740). Sales/exchanges may be authorized when:

1. The tract of public wetlands is either so small or remote that it is uneconomical to manage.
2. The tract of public wetlands is not suitable for management by another Federal agency.
3. The patent contains restrictions of uses and prohibited by identified Federal, State, or local wetlands regulations.
4. The patent contains restrictions and conditions that ensure the patentee can maintain, restore, and protect the wetlands on a continuous basis.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES LEASE/PATENT

The objective of the R&PP act is to meet the needs of State and local governmental agencies and other qualified organizations for public lands required for recreational and public purposes. Use of the R&PP Act protects public values in the land through its reversionary provisions and helps qualified entities obtain the more liberal pricing authorized under the act.

Public lands shall be conveyed or leased only for an established or definitely proposed project for which there is a reasonable timetable of development and satisfactory development and management plans. No more land that is reasonably necessary for the proposed use shall be conveyed.

APPENDIX 6

CONTINGENT VALUATION METHODOLOGY STUDY

BACKGROUND

BLM commissioned a report, authored by Dr. John Loomis, to use a Contingent Valuation Methodology approach to determine the public's willingness to pay for public resources under four different management strategies. The report is entitled BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER, CONTINGENT VALUATION METHODOLOGY, published in April of 2001. A copy is located at the Pinedale Field Office, BLM. The study was conducted to determine non-market values for resources and uses of the public land parcels in the Snake River planning area.

To gather the necessary data to be used in the report, a 12-page survey was developed and given to a random sample of visitors at four locations along the Snake River corridor in Jackson Hole. The fieldwork for the report was conducted during the summer of 2000, over a 21-day period between August and the Labor Day weekend. A total of 655 surveys were handed out to river visitors during this time period.

Most visitors who received the surveys took them home to give their answers some careful thought and then return the surveys. They were also asked for their name and address so a follow up contact could be made in the event they did not return the survey. Of the 655 surveys handed out, 418 were returned, constituting a 65.2% response rate (Table 1).

TABLE 1
BLM SURVEY RESPONSE RATE

	Teton County	Rest of WY	Rest of U.S	Visitors	Total
Surveys Mailed	800	800	800	657	3,057
Undeliverable	165	50	44	16	275
Deceased	4	10	6	0	20
Net Sample	631	740	750	641	2,762
Returned	372	386	254	418	1,430
Response Rate	59.0%	52.2%	33.9%	65.2%	51.8%

In addition to the visitor survey, there were three random surveys mailed to households in Teton County, Rest of Wyoming, and throughout the rest of the United States. There were 800 surveys mailed to each of these geographic areas for a total of 2,400 surveys. Table 1 indicates the specifics of each mailing and depicts the response rates for all three.

As expected, the response rate was highest for the visitors who were personally handed a survey, and the lowest for the random sample sent out to the rest of the United States. But overall, the response rate amounted to nearly 52%, which provided a good representation of those surveyed and could be used to draw meaningful conclusions regarding the management strategies being examined.

WILLINGNESS TO PAY

The survey was based on four Management Strategies:

Management Strategy A: Sale of Lands to Private Landowners

Management Strategy B: Increased Recreation Use

Management Strategy C: Retention of Public Lands and Increased Wildlife Habitat Management to Maintain Habitat

Management Strategy D: Sand and Gravel Mining and Expanded Livestock Grazing

Respondents were asked to vote on Management Strategy comparisons where Strategy A was compared to Strategies B, C, and D. All Management Strategies, other than A, required payment of higher annual taxes. Depending on the survey respondents received, the annual tax increase in their survey ranged from a low of \$2 to a high of \$295.

The results of the voting are illustrated in Table 2. Notice the Willingness to Pay (WTP) is the highest for Management Strategy C vs. A across all samples. For example, the WTP for C vs. A ranges from a high of \$288 for Visitors to a low of \$52 for the Rest of WY. It is important to note that while the WTP for Rest of WY and Rest of U.S. is relatively low compared to the WTP for Visitors and Teton County Residents, the number of households in the U.S. is much greater. When the WTP is extrapolated over approximately 100 million households nationwide, the value for Management Strategy C vs. A becomes substantial.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATES OF WILLINGNESS TO PAY (WTP)

	Strategy	Median WTP
Visitors	B vs. A	\$202
	C vs. A	\$288
	D vs. A	\$39
Teton County Residents	B vs. A	\$177
	C vs. A	\$245
	D vs. A	\$37
Rest of Wyoming	B vs. A	\$49
	C vs. A	\$52
	D vs. A	(\$47)
Rest of United States	B vs. A	\$5
	C vs. A	\$68
	D vs. A	(\$108)

Numbers in parentheses are negative

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PREFERENCE

In addition to the WTP questions in the survey, respondents were asked which of the four Management Strategies they preferred if there were no cost associated with any of the choices. The results of the voting are illustrated in Table 3.

Strategy A, involving the sale of the BLM-administered land, was the least popular choice across all samples. The most popular choice was Management Strategy C, which emphasized retention of public lands, wildlife protection at the expense of slightly lower recreation use, elimination of livestock grazing,

and the prohibition of sand and gravel mining. The second most popular choice was Management Strategy B, emphasizing increased recreation use in conjunction with more recreation facilities. The third most popular choice was Management Strategy D, which favored sand and gravel mining and expanded livestock grazing.

TABLE 3
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PREFERENCE

Strategy	Visitors	Teton County Residents	Rest of Wyoming	Rest of US
A	2.4%	2.4%	4.0%	5.7%
B	29.0%	25.4%	29.1%	26.0%
C	59.5%	54.9%	45.1%	55.1%
D	9.1%	17.4%	21.7%	13.2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

SUMMARY

The study entitled BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER, CONTINGENT VALUATION METHODOLOGY points out one common theme. That theme is that the public lands being considered in this RMP represent a valuable resource that has a non-market component that greatly exceeds the private market value of the lands. The resource is not only valuable to the visitors and residents of Teton County, but to the nation as a whole. Moreover, it is clear from the study that the preference of the public is to keep the parcels in public ownership.

Another interesting observation pointed out in the BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER study is derived from the random selection of respondents living in the Rest of WY and Rest of U.S. Many of the respondents from this sample set have never visited the Jackson Hole area, but are still willing to pay to have it maintained in public ownership. The public's willingness to pay to maintain these lands in public ownership emphasizes the importance of this area from a national preservation standpoint. Also, it further illustrates the importance of the non-market component of value for these lands.

Given the scope of the study, it is not possible to accurately quantify the WTP of each of the alternatives being evaluated in the SRRMP. With that said, a subjective analysis will be used to examine the salient features of each alternative and determine whether the WTP is expected to go up or down based on the responses in the BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER study. Following that discussion, a subjective comparative analysis will be used to rank the WTP associated with each alternative.

The BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER study is available for review. By reviewing that document, the reader will have access to the details of the study that have been summarized in this appendix. For a more thorough understanding of this study, please refer to the report entitled BLM UPPER SNAKE RIVER, CONTINGENT VALUATION METHODOLOGY published in April of 2001.

APPENDIX 7

PUBLIC LAND ORDER 7143

43 CFR Public Land Order 7143 [WY-930-1430-01; WYW-128871]

Withdrawal of Public Lands and Federal Minerals for the Snake River Riparian Lands; Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws from mineral or surface entry, for a period of 10 years, a total of 5,937 acres of public lands, 663 acres of lands as to which the United States owns both the surface and mineral estate, 1,993 acres of lands as to which the United States owns only the surface estate, and 3,281 acres of lands as to which the United States owns only the mineral estate, except that such public lands may be exchanged or sold pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1701 (1988), or conveyed pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43 U.S.C. 869 (1988). The lands are collectively known as the Snake River Riparian Lands, located in Teton County, near Jackson, Wyoming. This action will protect and preserve highly significant recreation, scenic, riparian, and wildlife resources until land use planning for the area can be completed. The lands have been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara Gertsch, Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, 307-775-6115.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1967, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. To protect significant recreation, scenic, riparian and wildlife resources, the public lands, including lands as to which the United States owns both the surface and mineral estate, the surface estate only, and the mineral estate only, found within the following described areas are hereby withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from settlement, location, or entry, including entry under the mining laws of the United States (30 U.S.C. Ch 2(1988)), but not from leasing pursuant to applicable mineral leasing laws, exchange or sale pursuant to the Federal Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1701 (1988), or conveyance pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purpose Act, 43 U.S.C. 869 (1988):

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 40N., R. 116 W., Secs. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34.

T. 40N., R 117 W., Secs. 3, 10, 11, 14, 23, 24, and 25.

T. 41N., R 116 W., Secs. 5, 6, 7, and 18.

T. 41 N., R 117 W., Secs. 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35.

T. 42 N., R 116 W., Secs. 20, 21, 29, 32, and 34.

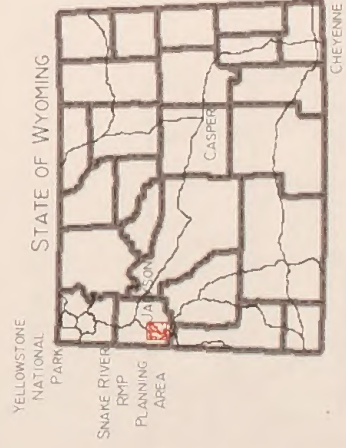
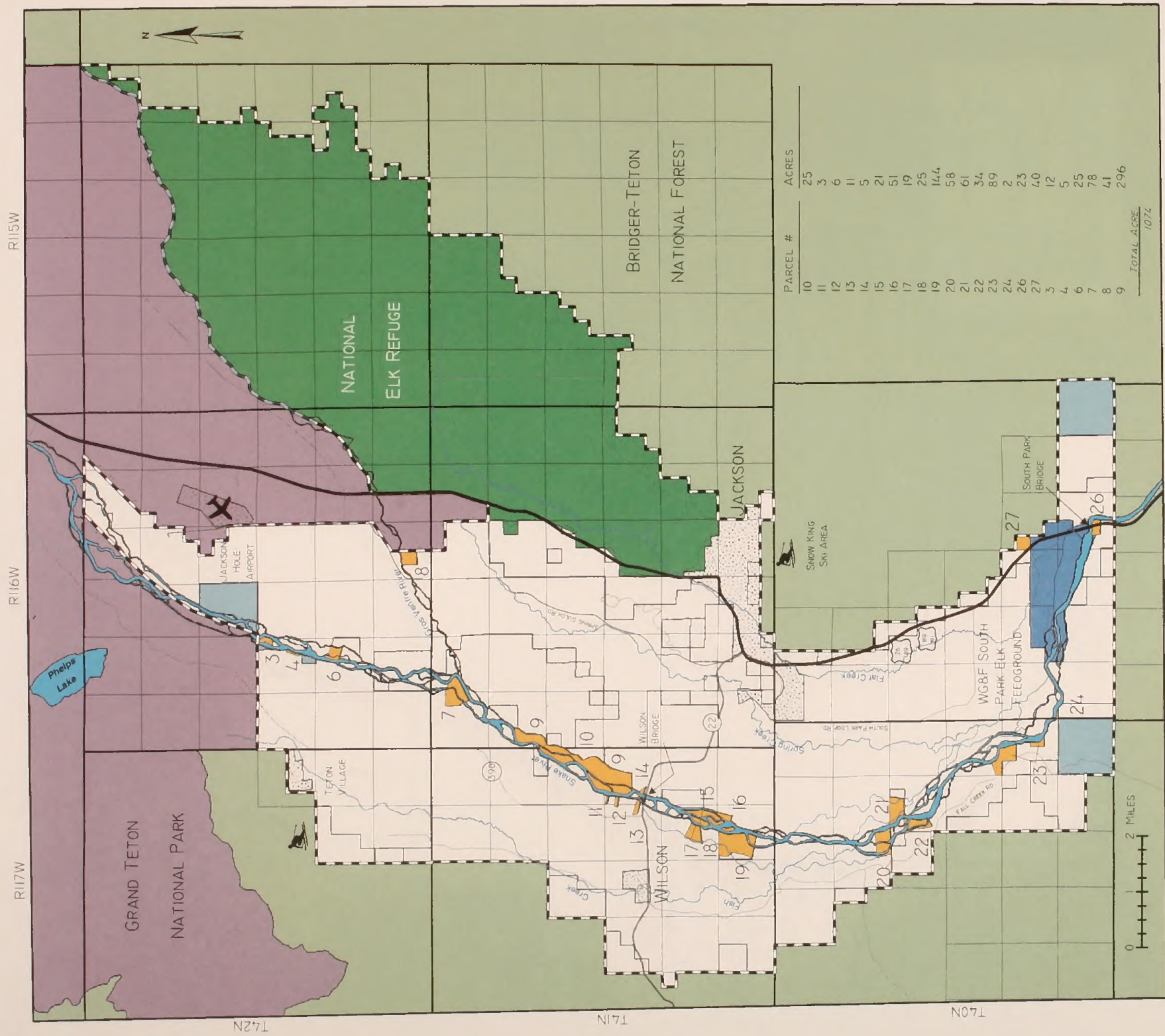
The areas described contain a total of 5,937 acres of public lands in Teton County, 663 acres of lands as to which the United States owns both the surface and the mineral estate, 1,993 acres of lands as to which the United States owns only the surface estate, and 3,281 acres of lands as to which the United States owns only the mineral estate.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those public land laws governing the use of the lands under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of their mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 10 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1988), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



* THE ABSENCE OF PARCELS 1, 2, 5, AND 25 AND EXPLAINED IN THE DETAILED MAPS (FIGURES 3 AND 9).

* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

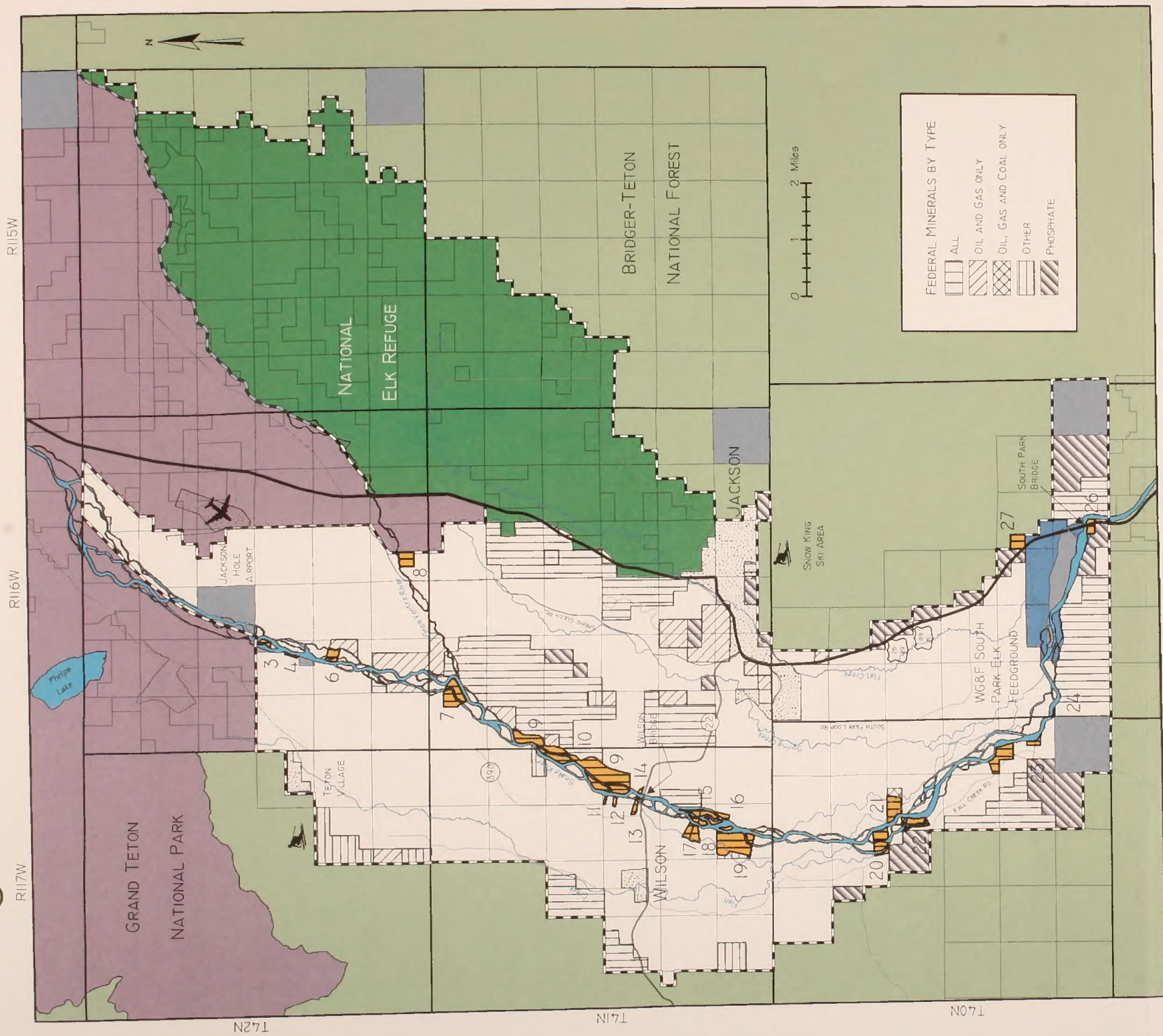
MAP I

GENERAL LOCATION AND LAND STATUS



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



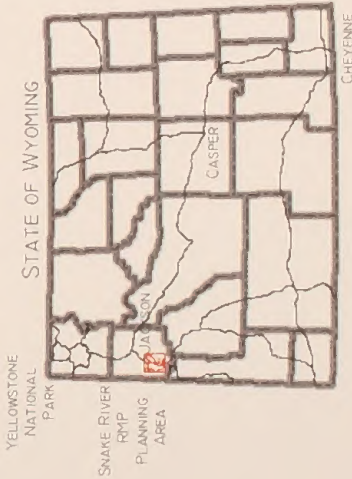
FEDERAL MINERALS BY TYPE

[White box]	ALL
[Diagonal lines /]	OIL AND GAS ONLY
[Cross-hatch]	OIL, GAS AND COAL ONLY
[Horizontal lines]	OTHER
[Vertical lines]	PHOSPHATE

PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY

SURFACE OWNERSHIP

[Orange box]	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
[Purple box]	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
[Green box]	NATIONAL ELK REFUGE
[Light green box]	U.S. NATIONAL FOREST
[White box]	PRIVATE
[Blue box]	STATE OF WYOMING
[Dark blue box]	WYOMING GAME AND FISH

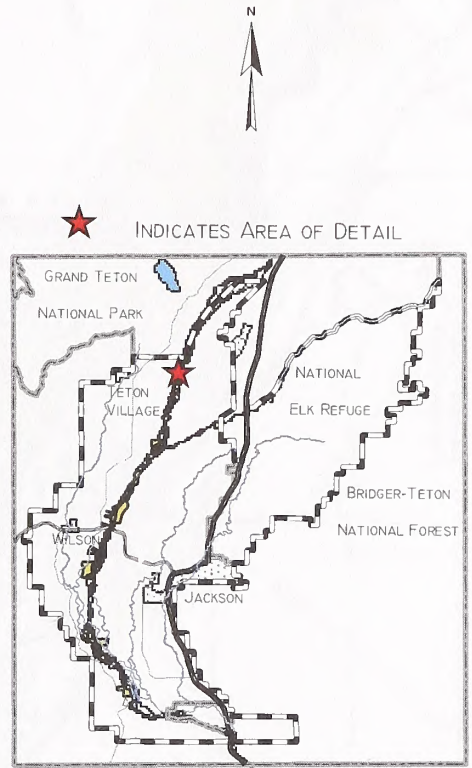
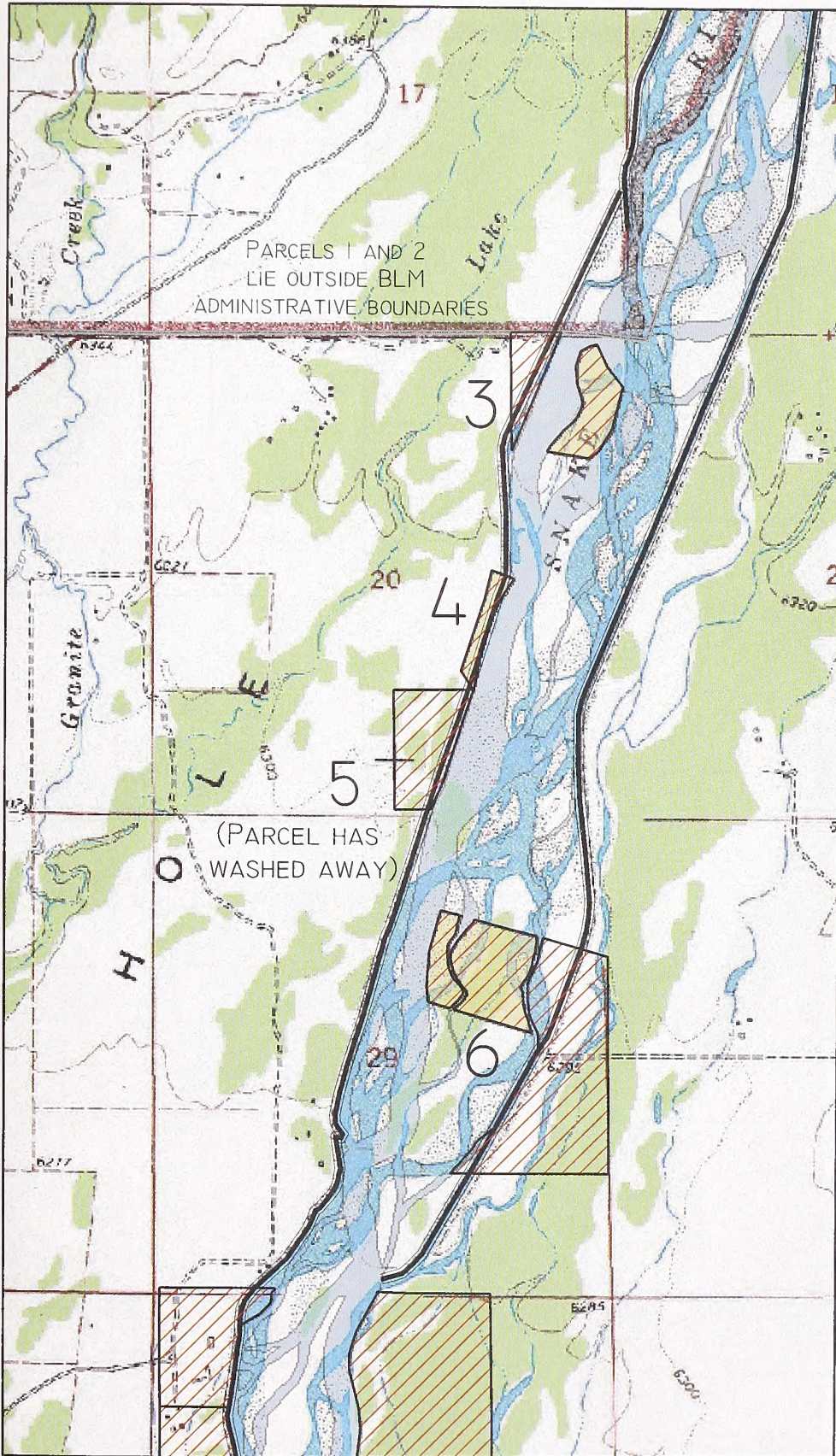


*THE ABSENCE OF PARCELS 1, 2, 5, AND 25 AND EXPLAINED IN THE DETAILED MAPS (FIGURES 3 AND 9).

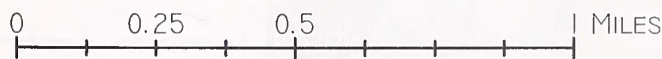
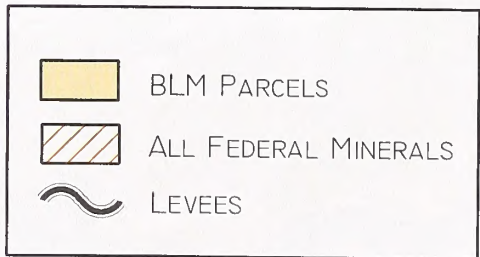
*NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 2

FEDERAL MINERAL ESTATE

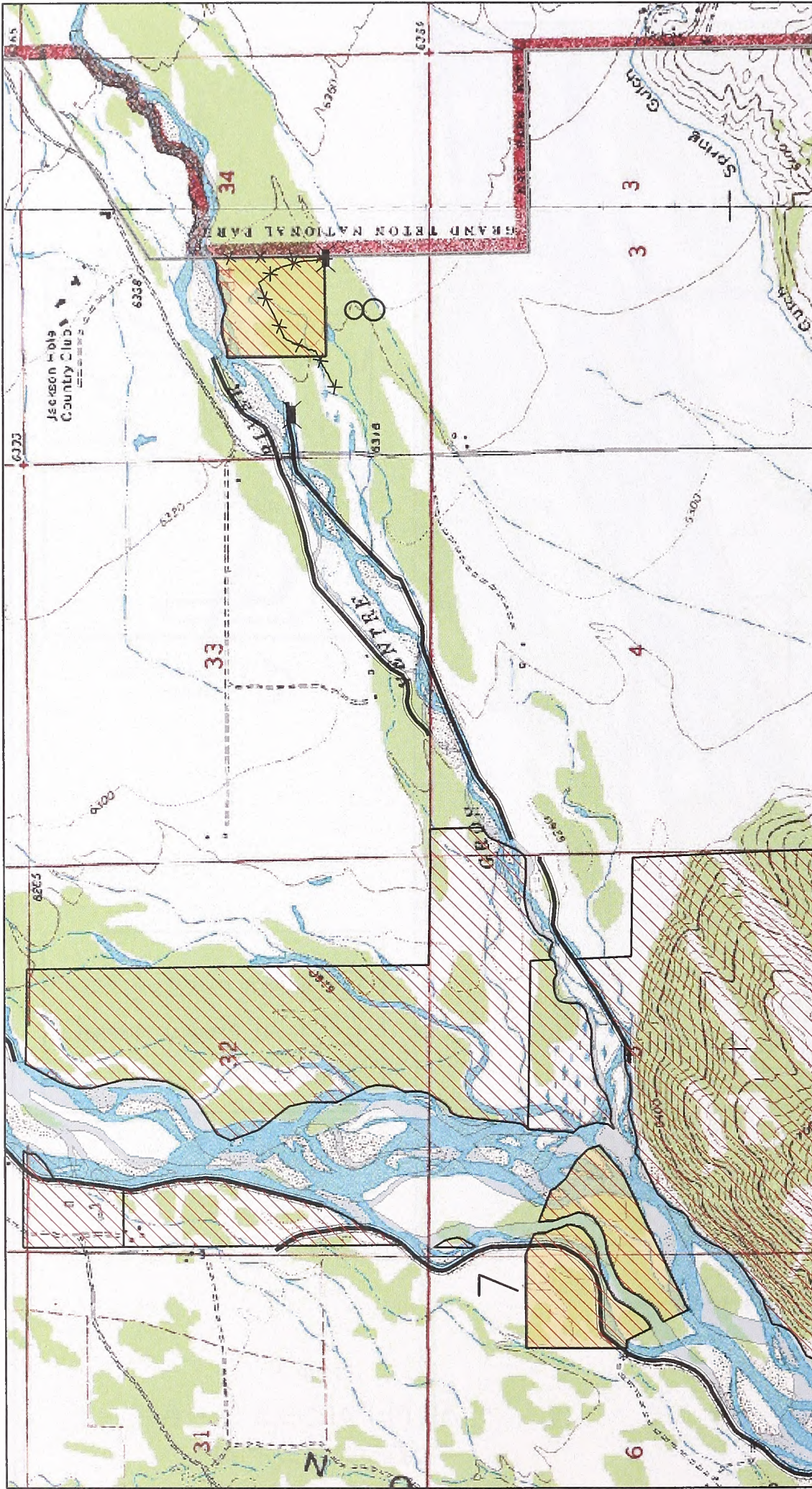


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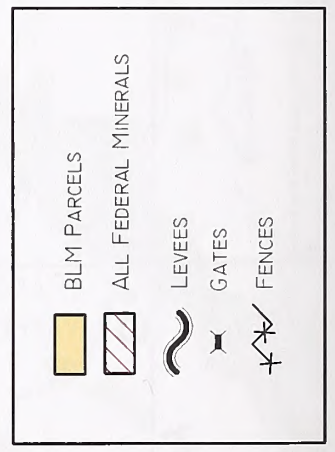
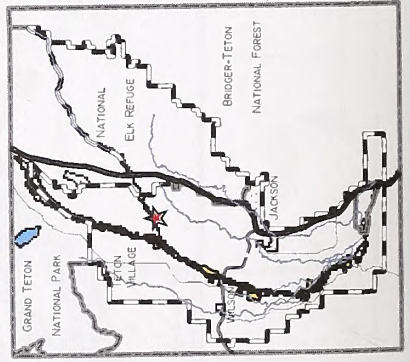


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PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 3
BLM PARCELS 3 - 6
DETAILED MAP
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



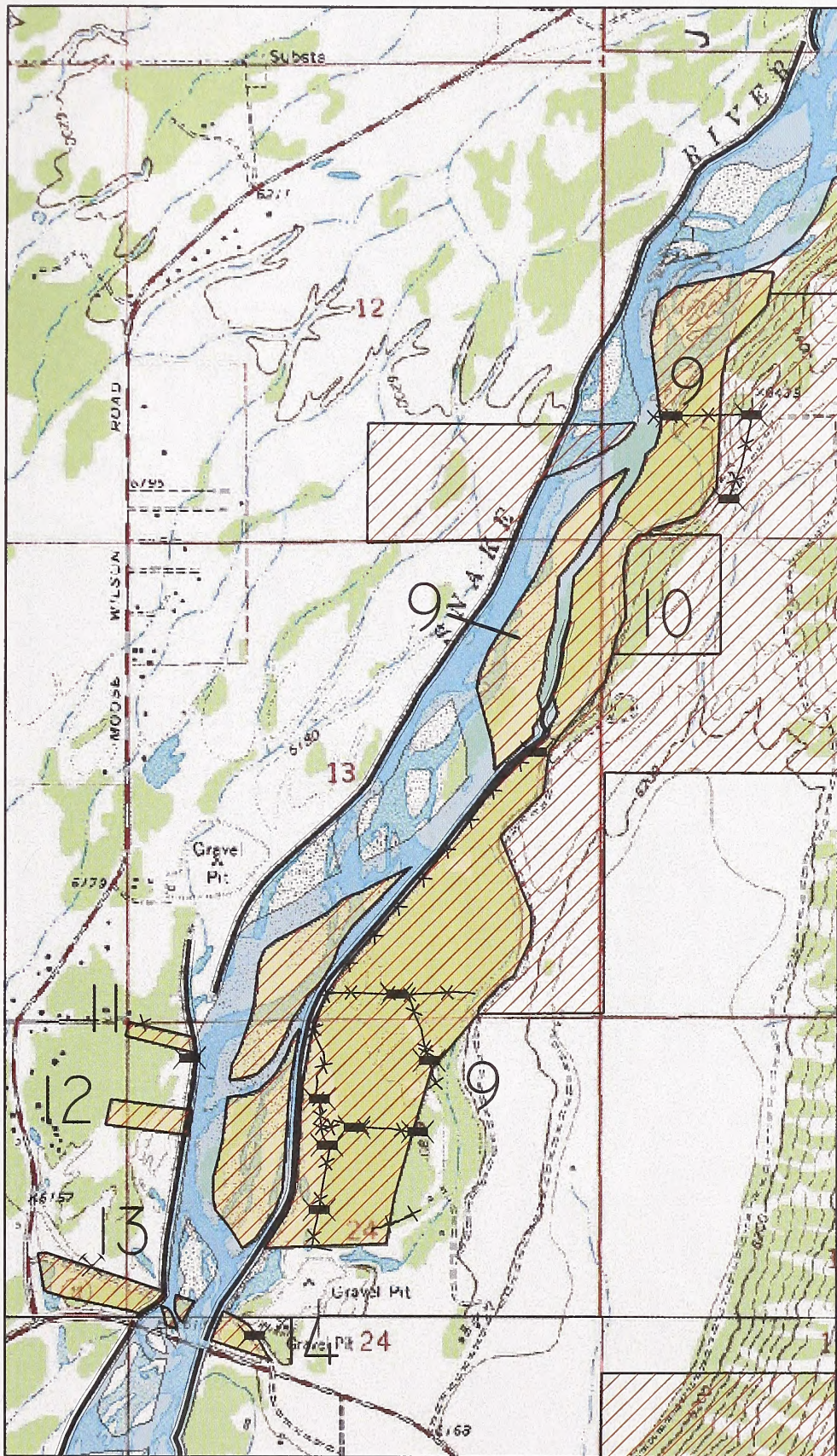
★ INDICATES AREA OF DETAIL



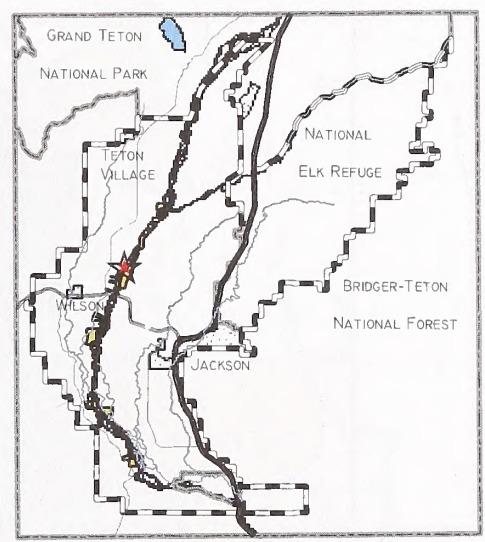
MAP 4
 BLM PARCELS 7 AND 8
 DETAILED MAP
 SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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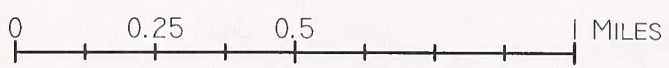
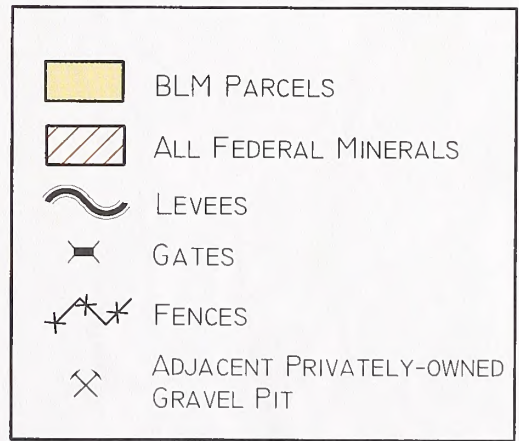
PLANNING AREA
 BOUNDARY



★ INDICATES AREA OF DETAIL



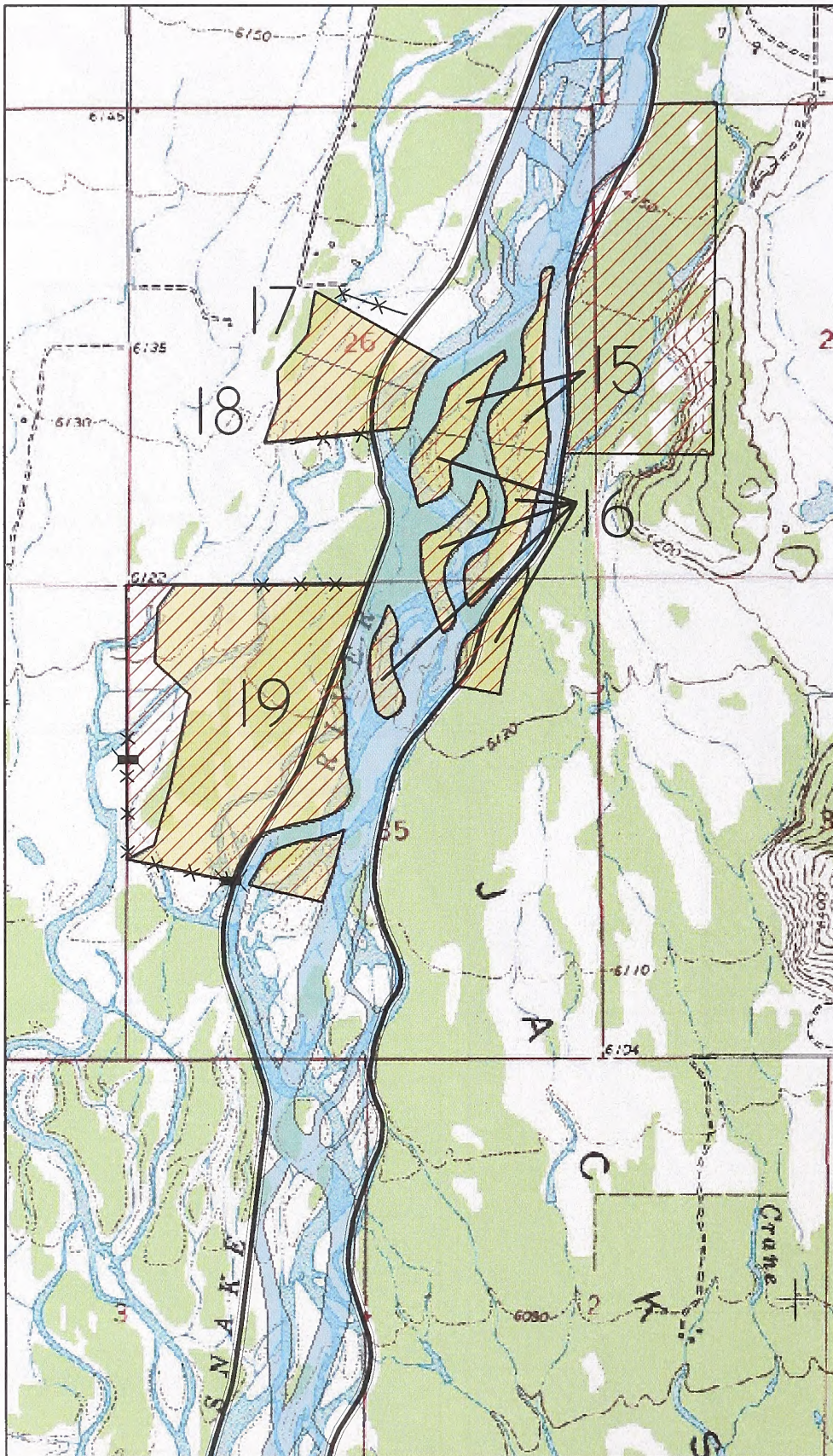
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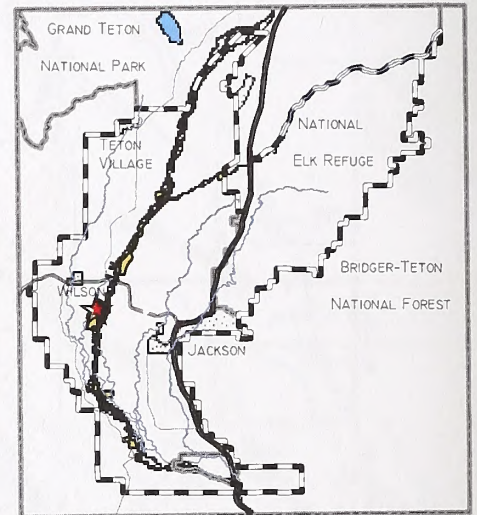
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MAP 5 BLM PARCELS 9 - 14 DETAILED MAP

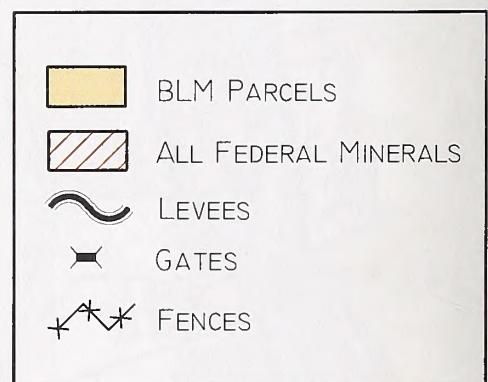
Snake River Resource Management Plan



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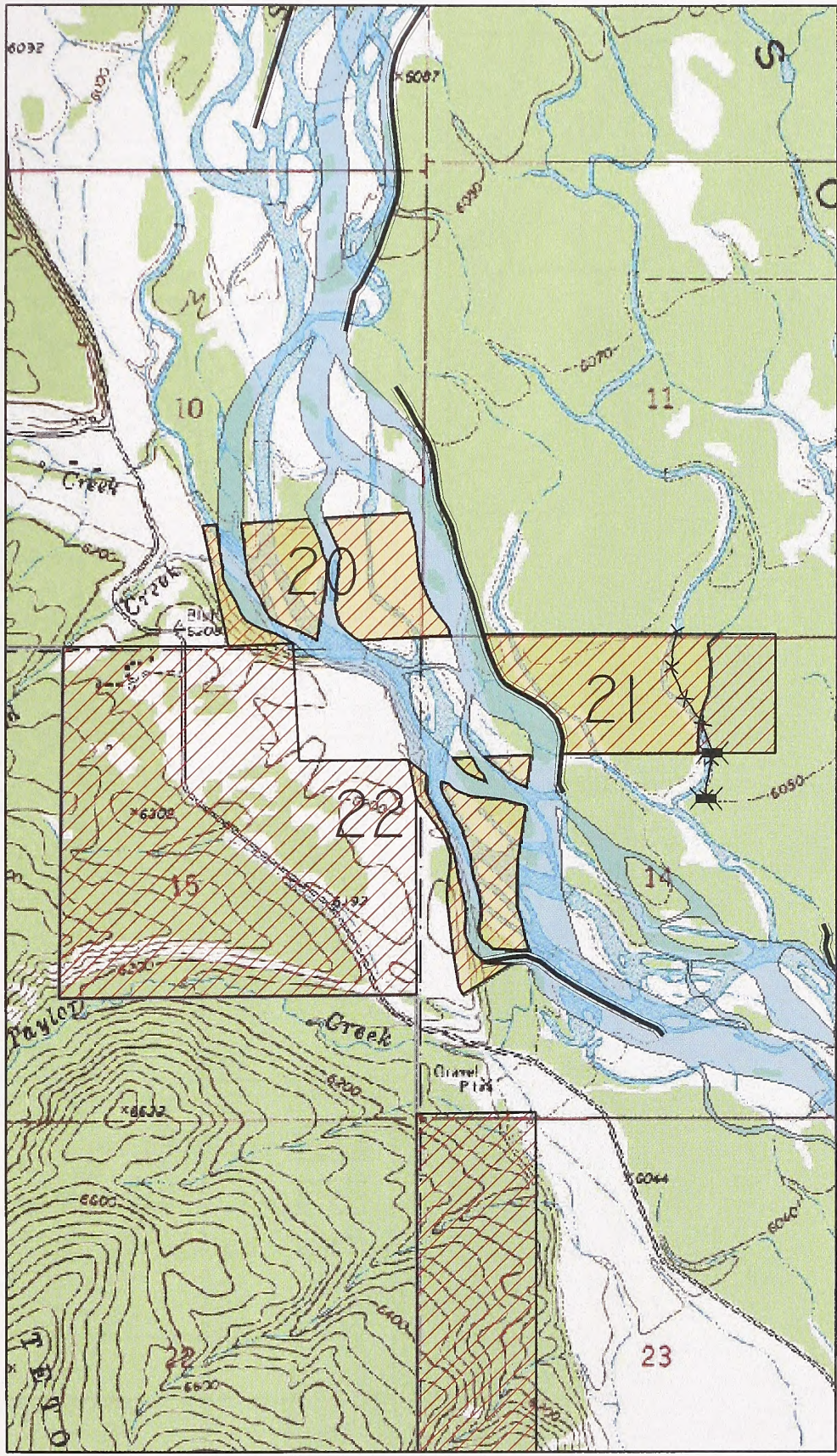


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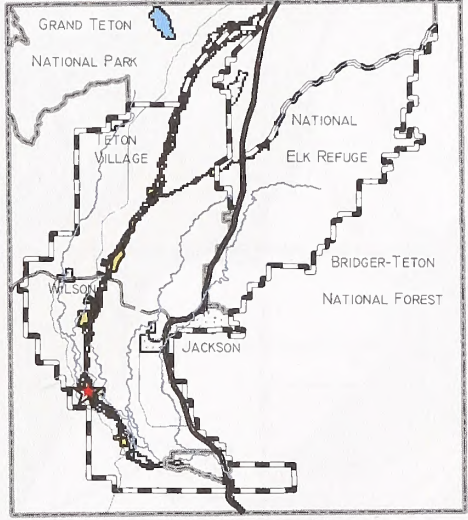


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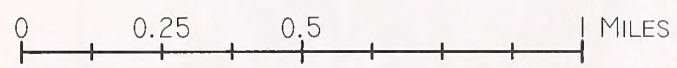
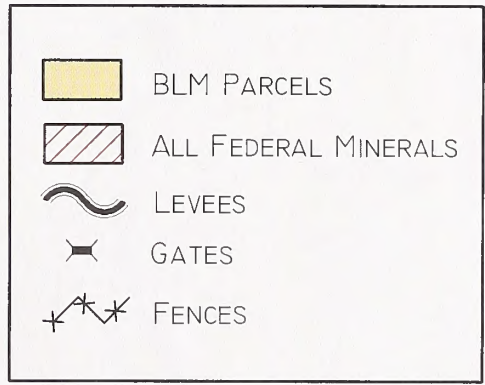
MAP 6
BLM PARCELS 15 - 19
DETAILED MAP
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



★ INDICATES AREA OF DETAIL

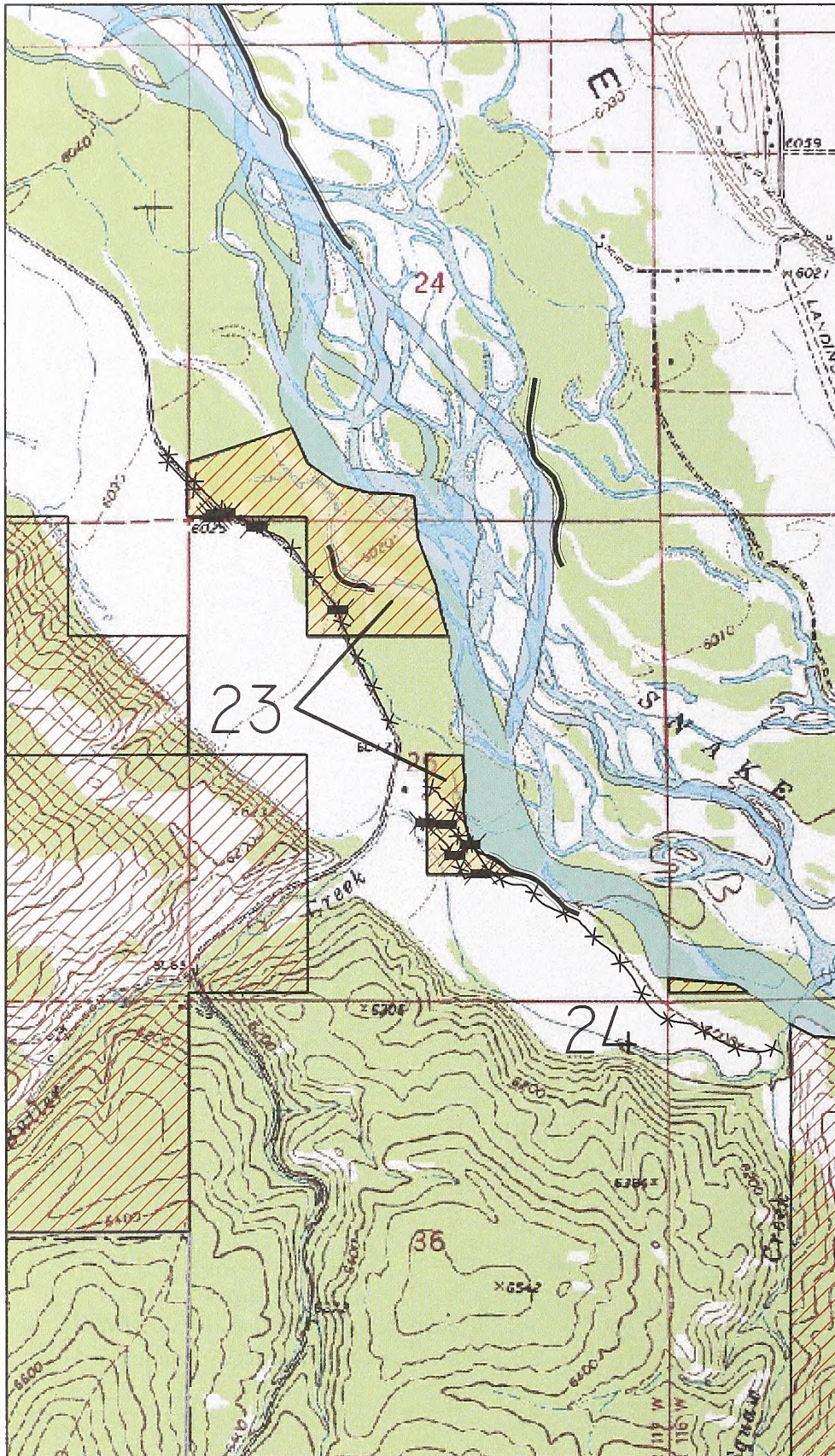


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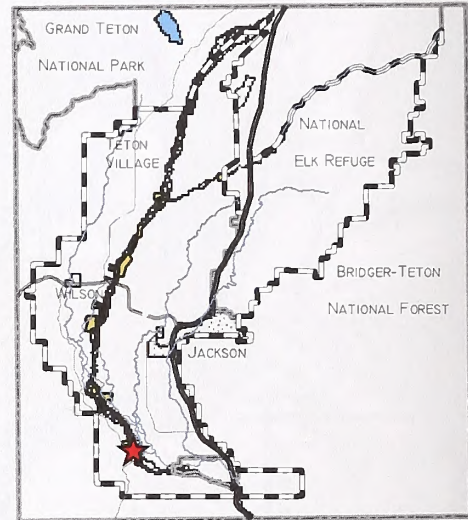


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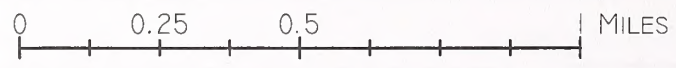
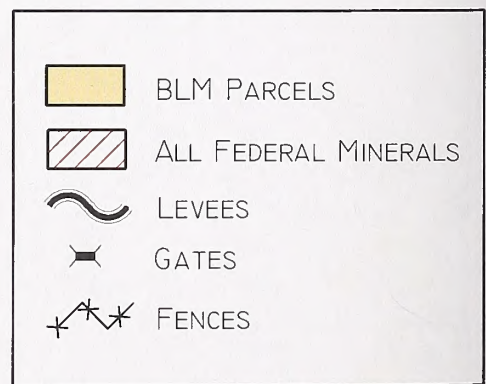
MAP 7
 BLM PARCELS 20, 21 AND 22
 DETAILED MAP
 SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



★ INDICATES AREA OF DETAIL

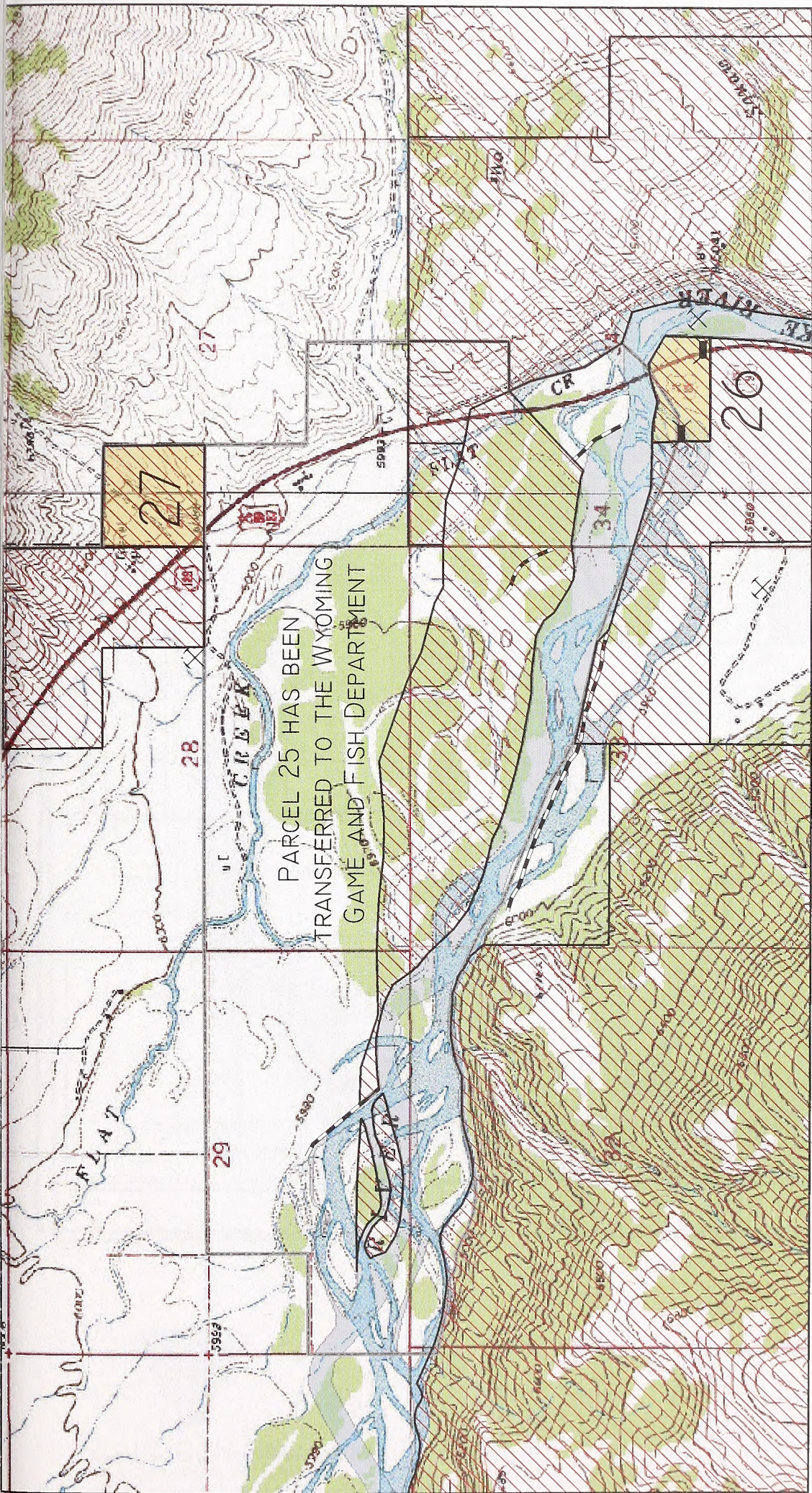


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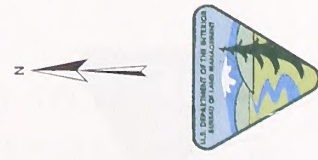


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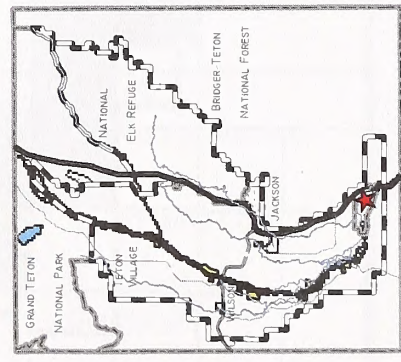
MAP 8
BLM PARCELS 23 AND 24
DETAILED MAP
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



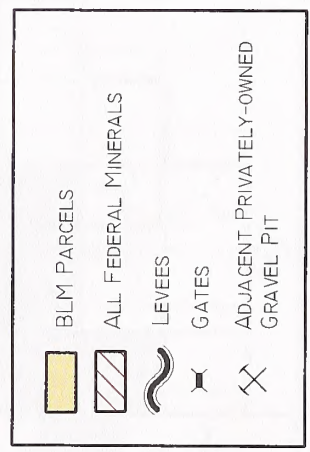
PARCEL 25 HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



★ INDICATES AREA OF DETAIL



PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY

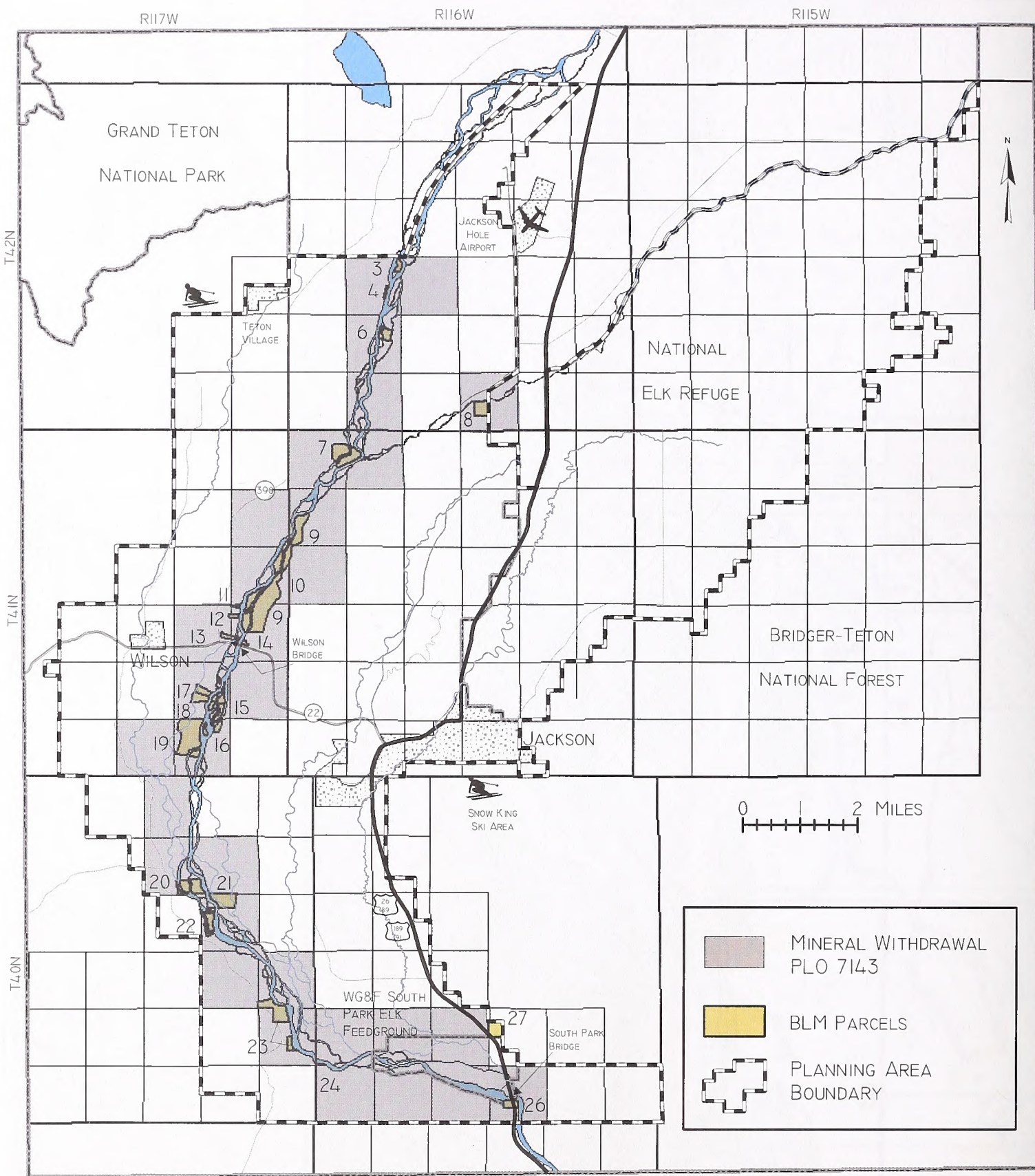


MAP 9

BLM PARCELS 25, 26 AND 27 DETAILED MAP

BLM PARCELS 25, 26 AND 27
DETAILED MAP

* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.



* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 10
MINERAL WITHDRAWAL PLO 7143
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

R117W

R116W

R115W

GRAND TETON
NATIONAL PARK

JACKSON
HOLE
AIRPORT

TETON
VILLAGE

NATIONAL
ELK REFUGE

WILSON

WILSON
BRIDGE

JACKSON




BRIDGER-TETON
NATIONAL FOREST

SNOW KING
SKI AREA

WG&F SOUTH
PARK ELK
FEEDGROUND

SOUTH PARK
BRIDGE

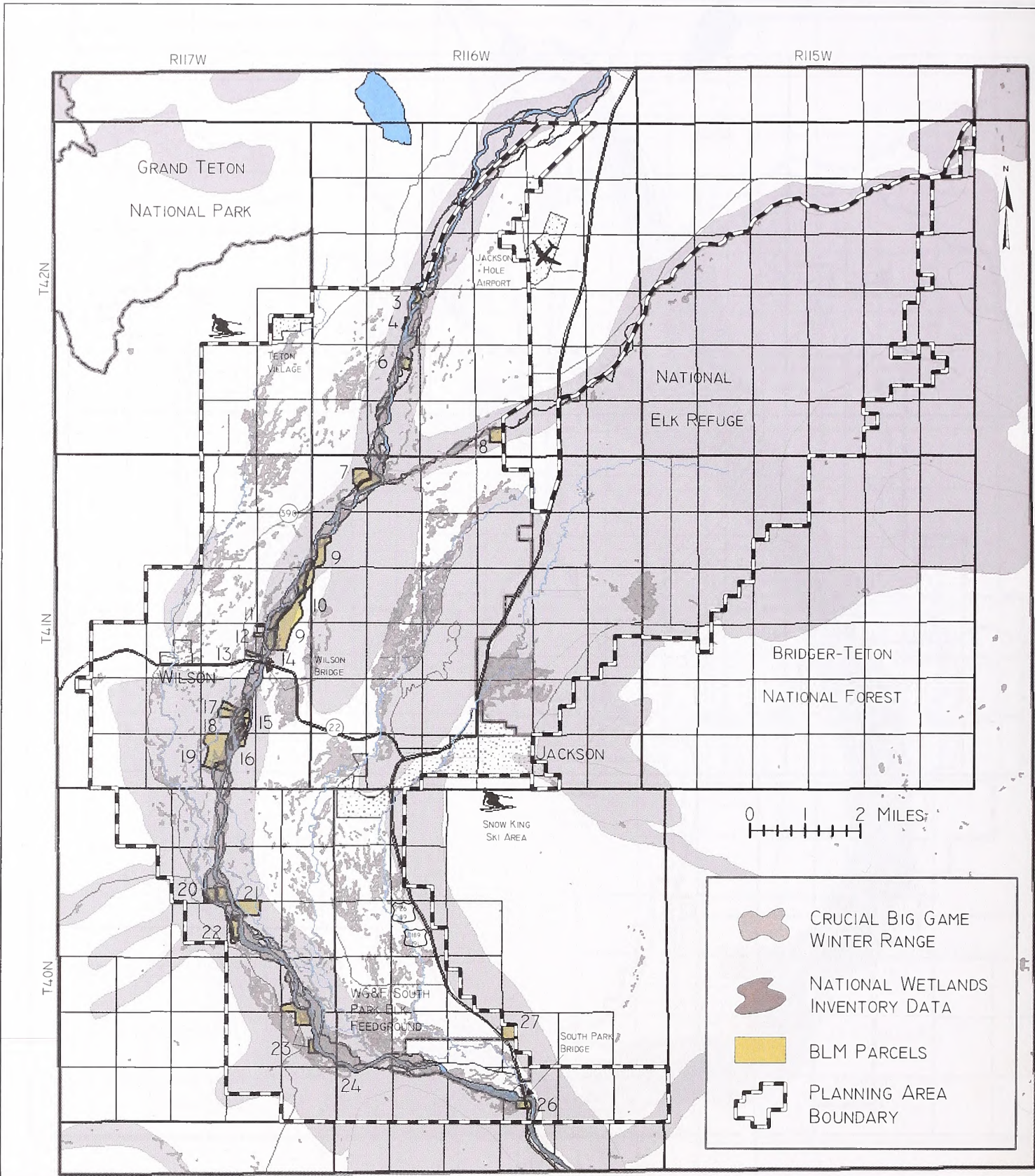
0 1 2 MILES

-  1/2 MILE CORRIDOR
-  BLM PARCELS
-  PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY



* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP II
AREAS CLOSED TO MINERAL
LEASING FOR ALTERNATIVE B
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



**RAPTOR NESTS ARE EXCLUSION AREAS FOR ALTERNATIVE C. THESE ARE NOT DEPICTED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY PURPOSES.



*NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 12
 RIGHTS-OF-WAY EXCLUSION AREAS
 ALTERNATIVE C
 SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

R117W

R116W

R115W

GRAND TETON
NATIONAL PARK

JACKSON
HOLE
AIRPORT

TETON
VILLAGE

NATIONAL
ELK REFUGE

WILSON

WILSON
BRIDGE

JACKSON





BRIDGER-TETON
NATIONAL FOREST

SNOW KING
SKI AREA

0 1 2 MILES

WG&F SOUTH
PARK ELK
FEEDGROUND

SOUTH PARK
BRIDGE

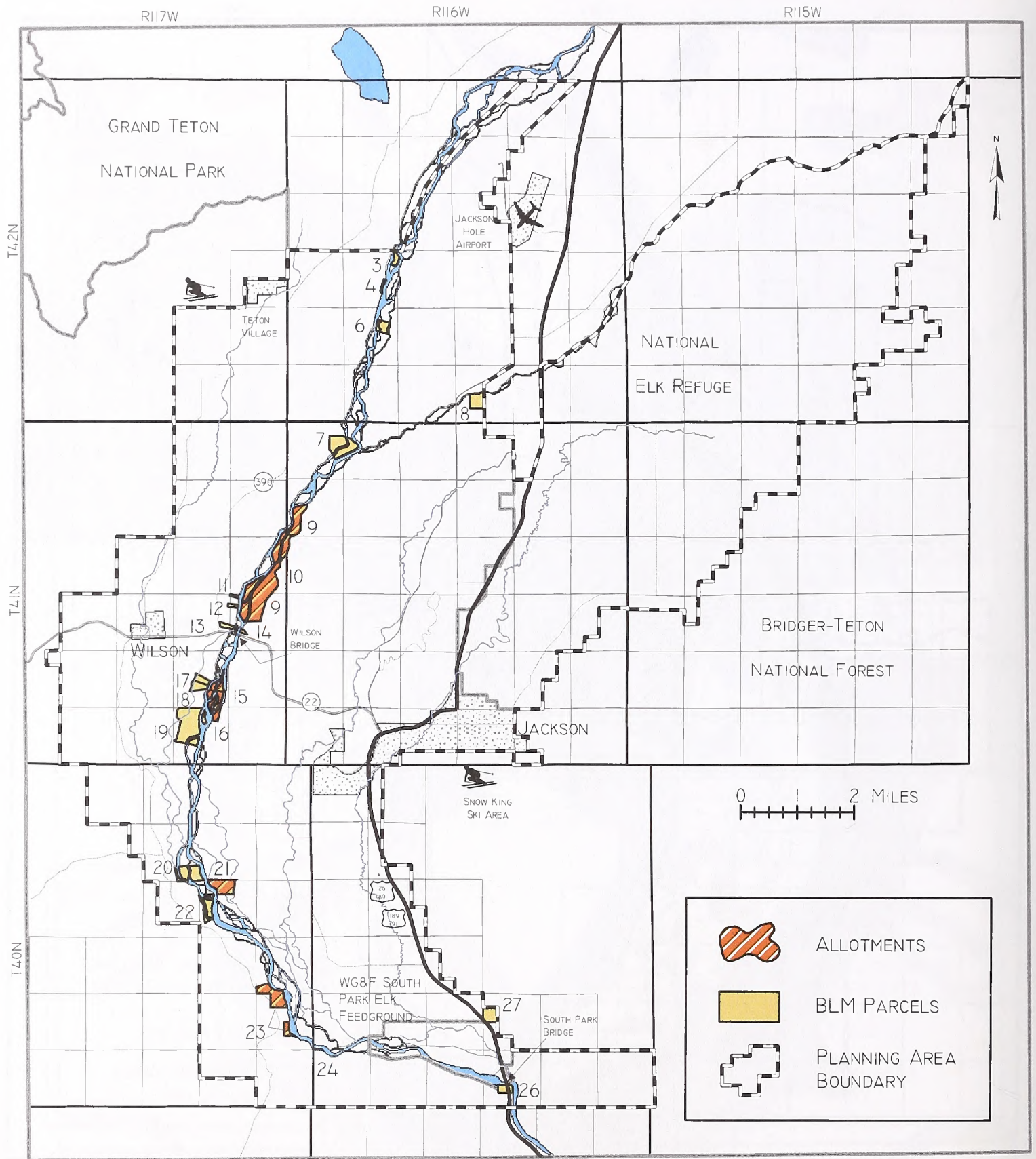
	CRUCIAL BIG GAME WINTER RANGE
	NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY DATA
	BLM PARCELS
	PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY

**RAPTOR NESTS ARE EXCLUSION AREAS FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.
THESE ARE NOT DEPICTED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY PURPOSES.



*NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 13
RIGHTS-OF WAY AVOIDANCE AREAS
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
AND ALTERNATIVES A AND E
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 14
GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

R117W

R116W

R115W

GRAND TETON
NATIONAL PARK

JACKSON
HOLE
AIRPORT

TETON
VILLAGE

NATIONAL
ELK REFUGE

Wilson Bridge
Boat Access Rd.

US Highway 22

Emily's
Pond Rd.

BRIDGER-TETON
NATIONAL FOREST

Fall Creek Rd.

JACKSON

SNOW KING
SKI AREA

US Highway 189/191 and 26/89

Teton County
Waste Transfer Rd.

WG&F SOUTH
PARK ELK
FEEDGROUND

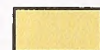
Munger
Mountain Rd.

Evans Rd.

0 1 2 MILES



DESIGNATED ROADS



BLM PARCELS

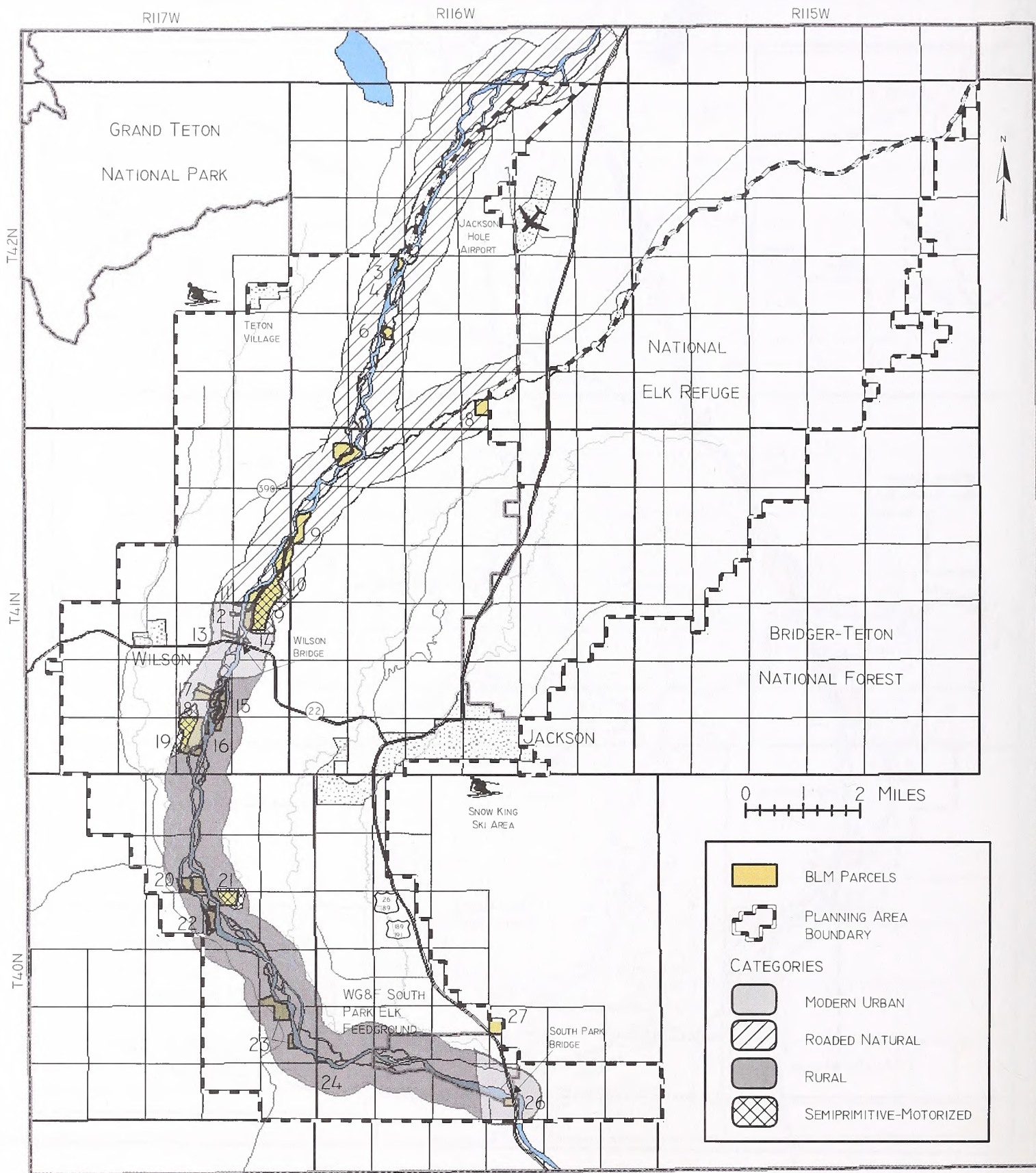


PLANNING AREA
BOUNDARY



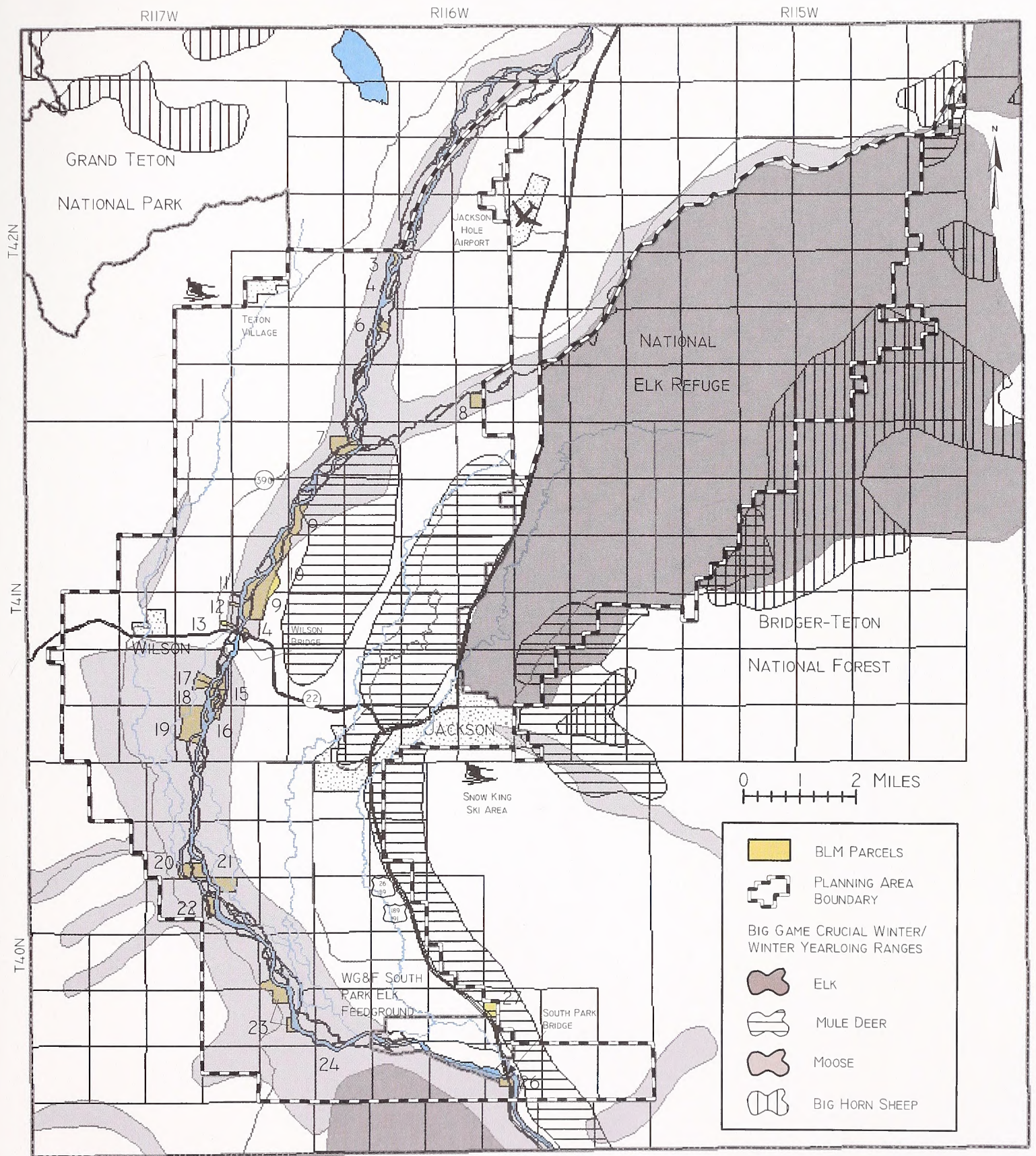
* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 15
DESIGNATED ROADS FOR
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
AND ALTERNATIVES C AND E
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



* NO WARRANTY MADE FOR DATA USAGE
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY THE BLM.

MAP 16
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM
SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



MAP 17
 BIG GAME CRUCIAL WINTER RANGES
 SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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