APPENDIX N—RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE EVALUATIONS OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN NOMINATIONS

SUMMARY

This reports documents the evaluation of 16 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) nominations reviewed as part of the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP). These areas will be considered further as alternatives are developed for the plan and preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS). These areas include existing and new nominations for ACEC designation. To be considered further, areas must be located on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and meet the relevance and importance criteria described in the *BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* (BLM 1988).

This evaluation does not designate any of the areas as ACECs. Potential ACECs are proposed for designation if the analysis in the RMP/EIS shows that special management is required to protect the relevant and important values. Designation of proposed ACECs occurs when the Record of Decision is signed, and the RMP/EIS is approved.

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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) states that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will give priority to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) in the development and revision of Land Use Plans. Land Use Plans in the BLM are known as Resource Management Plans (RMPs), and the Cottonwood Field Office (CFO) is currently in the multi-year process of developing such a plan. This RMP will replace the Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP) that was approved in 1981 and predated BLM's current planning system. In 1981, the BLM did not identify specific areas for ACEC designation. In 1989, the BLM completed a Land Use Plan amendment which designated ten areas as ACECs or ACEC/Research Natural Areas (RNAs).

This report will evaluate existing ACECs and identify proposed changes to reflect changes in management and resource conditions and if such designation is still warranted and will also evaluate new proposed ACECs. This report summarizes the relevance and importance evaluation for 16 nominated ACECs (includes ten existing ACECs) located on land administered by the BLM's CFO. These evaluations have been completed in accordance with guidance provided in *BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*. Five of the existing ACECs are proposed for modification because of changed conditions. A total of 16 existing and new nominations will be considered further in the RMP to determine whether they warrant designation as ACECs.

WHAT IS AN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN?

BLM regulations (43 CFR 1610) define an ACEC as an area "within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." Therefore, private lands and lands administered by other agencies are not included in the boundaries of the ACECs. The ACEC designation indicates to the public that the BLM recognizes that an area has significant values and has established special management measures to protect those values. In addition, ACEC designation also serves as a reminder that significant values(s) or resource(s) exist which must be accommodated when future management actions and land use proposals are considered near or within an ACEC. Designation may also support a funding priority.

ACECs differ from other special management designations such as Wilderness Study Areas in that designation by itself does not automatically prohibit or restrict other uses in the area. The one exception is that a mining plan of operation is required for any proposed mining activity within a designated ACEC. The ACEC designation is an administrative designation that is accomplished through the land use planning process. It is unique to the BLM in that no other agency uses this form of designation. The intent of Congress in mandating the designation of ACECs through FLPMA was to give priority to the designation and protection of areas containing unique and significant resource values.

This document will not evaluate specific RNAs, however, in 1989 several areas were designated ACEC/RNA. RNA designation must meet one or more of the following characteristics: (1) A typical representation of a common plant or animal association; (2) an unusual plant or animal association; (3) a threatened or endangered plant or animal species; (4) a typical representation of common geological, soil, or water features; or (5) outstanding or unusual geologic, soil, or water features.

THE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN PROCESS

There are several steps in the identification and evaluation of ACECs. These steps include: (1) Evaluation of existing ACECs that need modification because of changed conditions which affect the relevance and importance criteria; (2) Nomination of new areas that may meet the relevance and importance criteria; (3) Evaluation of the nominated areas to determine if they meet the relevance and importance criteria; and (4) Consideration of the potential ACECs as alternative management scenarios are formulated and effects are analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS (**Appendix N-1**). ~~When released, t~~The Draft RMP/EIS ~~will~~ contained recommendations on which potential ACECs ~~are~~ were proposed for designation, and public comment ~~will be~~was requested. Public comments ~~are~~ were reviewed and considered, and adjustments ~~are~~ were made as necessary in developing ~~before~~ the Proposed RMP/Final EIS ~~is released~~. Designation of ACECs will ~~then~~ occur in the Record of Decision approving the RMP. Each of these steps is briefly described below.

Identification/Nomination

ACECs can be nominated at anytime, but are only designated through the BLM's land use planning process. Nominations from the public are generally solicited as part of the scoping process during development of a RMP for a particular area. BLM requested that ACEC comments and nominations to be considered in the CFO planning process be submitted by November 15, 2004. However, ACEC nominations can continue to be submitted after this deadline and those received early enough in the process will also be reviewed. Nominations received after the end of the 90-day public comment period on the Draft EIS ~~will not be~~were not considered in this planning cycle.

Evaluation of Nominations for Relevance and Importance

Nominations are evaluated to determine whether they meet the relevance and importance criteria. The relevance and importance criteria are detailed in **Appendix N-1**. A nomination must meet one or more of both the relevance and importance criteria to be considered a potential ACEC. Potential ACECs are then considered further in the planning process.

Consideration of Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Potential ACECs are considered as the RMP alternatives are being developed. Each potential ACEC is proposed for designation in at least one of the RMP alternatives. The need for special management and the resulting effects from applying such management are assessed in the environmental analysis. After completing the analysis of the effects of each alternative, the preferred plan alternative identifies which potential ACECs are proposed for designation.

Comment on Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

A notice of any areas proposed for ACEC designation is published in the *Federal Register* along with a Notice of Availability of the Draft RMP/EIS in which public comments are requested. The public may comment on any aspect of the ACEC analysis at this point in the planning process. These comments are then considered in preparation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. After a 30-day protest period, a Record of Decision is prepared, and the plan is approved.

Designation

A potential ACEC is proposed for designation if the area requires special management. Special management is defined as management outside of standard or routine practices, and usually includes more detail than other prescriptions contained within the plan. Special management is usually needed when one of the following conditions is met:

- Current management or management activities proposed in the alternative are not sufficient to protect the relevant and important resource.

- The needed management action is considered unusual or outside of the normal range of management practices typically used.

- The change in management is difficult to implement without ACEC designation. If analysis determines that special management is required, the area is recommended for designation. Designation of ACECs occurs when the Record of Decision is signed approving the RMP.

BACKGROUND

Upon approval in 1981, the Chief Joseph MFP did not identify or evaluate areas for ACEC designation. A plan amendment was completed for the Chief Joseph MFP in 1989, and ten areas were designated as Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and/or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). The ten designated RNAs and/or ACECs are identified in **Table N-1**.

Table N-2
Designated ACEC/RNAs in CFO

Name	Acres	Designation
1 - Wapshilla Ridge	401	ACEC/RNA
2 - Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands	43	ACEC/RNA
3 – Captain John Creek	1,321	ACEC/RNA
4 – Long Gulch	47	ACEC/RNA
5 - Lucile Caves	404	ACEC/RNA
6 – Skookumchuck	28	ACEC/RNA
7 – Craig Mountain	3,956	ACEC
8 – Elk City/American Hill Lake	30	ACEC
9 - Lower Lolo Creek	3,678	ACEC
10 – Lower Salmon River (Confluence to White Bird Creek)	15,702	ACEC
TOTAL ACRES	**25,600**	

The current RMP effort solicited nominations from the public as specified by BLM policy on areas that should receive consideration under the ACEC guidance. Scoping for the CFO RMP was initiated with publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on September 3, 2004. Subsequent mailings and public meetings occurred in the fall of 2004, and comments were solicited from the public on issues and planning criteria as well as nominations for consideration in the BLM's ACEC and Wild and Scenic River review process. As the planning process moved beyond the early stages of scoping toward alternative development, the public was notified that nominations received after the close of the 90 day public comment period on the Draft EIS would not be evaluated in the current RMP, but would have to be addressed in a later amendment. As part of the analysis of the management situation, BLM planning team members also submitted areas for consideration. ACEC planning team meetings were held in December 2004 and January 2005, where additional areas were submitted for consideration and evaluation.

IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE EVALUATIONS

The information below summarizes the importance and relevance evaluations which were conducted for each of the nominated areas. Areas evaluated are organized as follows: (1) existing ACECs moving forward, and (2) new ACEC nominations. Maps are included in **Appendix N-2** for the 16 nominations moving forward as potential ACECs for further consideration. These include:

- Wapshilla Ridge (existing ACEC/RNA);
- Captain John Creek (existing ACEC/RNA);
- Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands (existing ACEC/RNA);
- Skookumchuck (existing ACEC/RNA – proposed reduction);
- Long Gulch (existing ACEC/RNA);
- Lucile Caves (existing ACEC/RNA - proposed reduction);
- Craig Mountain (existing ACEC - proposed additions);
- Upper Lolo Creek (new);
- Lower Lolo Creek (existing ACEC);
- Lower Salmon River – Confluence to White Bird Creek (existing ACEC – proposed additions);
- Little Salmon River (new);
- Upper Salmon River – White Bird Creek to French Creek (new);
- Partridge/Elkhorn (new);
- Elk City/American Hill Lake (existing ACEC);
- East Fork American River (new); and
- American River Historic Sites District (new).

Wapshilla Ridge

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and is located approximately 40 air-miles southeast of Lewiston, Idaho, and occurs within the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The area occurs on the ridge/divide between the Snake and Salmon Rivers. The vegetation in the area is primarily composed of excellent condition representative native canyon grassland plant communities, while northerly aspects are timbered with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine.

This area includes 401 acres and is located in portions of Sections 14 and 15, T. 30 N., R. 4 W. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 1**).

Relevance Criteria: This area meets the relevance criteria as a natural process or system. The Wapshilla Ridge area supports the ecological processes associated with representative plant communities for the Tri-State Uplands Section of the Columbia Intermontane Geomorphic Province. A population of the Simpson's hedgehog cactus, a BLM Idaho Watch Species, occurs in the area.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria for natural processes which are vulnerable to adverse changes, particularly non-native plant (noxious and other weeds) encroachment into native grasslands. The area has more than locally significant qualities because it has been previously identified as a RNA because it is a good representative area of a native canyon grassland (e.g., bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue habitat types) occurring on basalt parent material. Designation of the area filled a needed vegetative type (cell) for Idaho RNAs.

Findings: This existing ACEC/RNA meets the relevance and importance criteria for a natural process and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and is located approximately 19 air-miles northeast of Lewiston, Idaho. Lower Cottonwood Island (River Mile 19.2) and Middle Cottonwood Island (River Mile 19.5) are located in the Clearwater River. The area is currently managed under a cooperative BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game Habitat Management Plan and Sikes Act Agreement (BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game 1981). When designated, these islands had excellent condition plant communities of ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass and coyote willow and had high values for research reference areas. Very little information is available on plant communities that occupy islands and shorelines of Columbia River tributaries, considering how much of this habitat has been altered by dams and reservoirs. The islands provide valuable nesting habitat for waterfowl (geese and ducks). The federally listed bald eagle utilizes the Clearwater River corridor during the winter, and larger trees are utilized for roosting. The Clearwater River contains high value fisheries resources for federally listed fall chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, and BLM sensitive fish.

The area includes 43 acres and is located in Section 33 (two unsurveyed islands), T. 37 N., R. 3 W. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 3**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria for a natural process or system. These Clearwater River islands contain valuable natural processes, which includes riverine, riparian, and remnant Palouse grassland plant community types.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria, because the natural processes are vulnerable to changes, with non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant infestations being the highest threat.

Findings: This existing ACEC/RNA meets the relevance and importance criteria for natural processes and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Captain John Creek

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and is located approximately 16 air-miles southeast of Lewiston, Idaho, and occurs within the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The area is currently managed under a cooperative BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game Habitat Management Plan and Sikes Act Agreement. When designated, the area contained near pristine representative plant communities and supports the ecological processes for the Tri-State Uplands Section of the Columbia Intermontane Geomorphic Province. Plant communities represented include Douglas-fir, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and riparian habitats. The area occurs within the Captain John Creek drainage and provides habitat for the federally listed spring/summer chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The steep and rugged topography has restricted past land uses (e.g., timber harvest, roading), and this area is currently not leased for livestock grazing. The area provides important habitat for a variety of BLM sensitive wildlife and plants. In addition, the area is utilized by a variety of non-game species, upland game, and big game species (i.e., bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and black bear).

The area includes 1,321 acres and is located in Sections 3, 4, 5, and 8, T. 32 N., R. 4 W. and Sections 33 and 34, T. 33 N., R. 3 W. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 2**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria, because it provides habitat for federally listed steelhead trout and spring/summer chinook salmon, BLM sensitive wildlife, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, important wildlife habitat areas, natural processes, and BLM sensitive plants.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria, because its fisheries, wildlife, and natural processes are vulnerable to adverse changes. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant infestations have encroached on native grasslands in the area.

Findings: This existing ACEC/RNA meets the relevance and importance criteria for a natural process and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Long Gulch

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and is located approximately 13 air-miles south of White Bird, Idaho. MacFarlane's four-o'clock, a federally listed plant occurs in the area. The BLM is currently managing the area in accord with a Habitat

Management Plan developed in 1981 and MacFarlane's four-o'clock recovery plan guidance (USFWS 2000, USFWS 1985). The BLM constructed a fence around the site in 1981 and cancelled livestock grazing. The area has established long term trend and condition monitoring. The BLM has initiated noxious and other weed control projects in the area.

The area includes 47 acres and is located in Section 1, T. 26 N., R. 1 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 4**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria, because it provides habitat for a population of the federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock which is endemic to the canyon grasslands found in the Lower Salmon River, Snake River, and Imnaha River canyons.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria, because it has regional significance for providing habitat for a federally listed plant which is vulnerable to adverse impacts. The population of MacFarlane's four-o'clock occurring in this area is threatened by adverse changes, particularly encroachment of non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant species (e.g., yellow starthistle, Dalmatian toadflax, and rush skeletonweed) into native grassland habitats.

Findings: This existing ACEC/RNA meets the relevance and importance criteria for the federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock and natural processes and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Lucile Caves

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and totals 438 acres and is located approximately nine air-miles north of Riggins, Idaho. The area provides floristic and geologic components that are unique on a regional basis. The area has a transplant population of the federally listed plant MacFarlane's four-o'clock. The area also contains several Idaho BLM sensitive plant species and Idaho BLM sensitive land snails. Lucile Caves provides a unique example of a wet limestone cave environment along with associated vegetation and vegetative communities of the Lower Salmon River drainage. The area is currently managed under a cooperative BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game Habitat Management Plan and Sikes Act Agreement that was developed in 1985 and in accord with MacFarlane's four-o'clock Recovery Plans (USFWS 2000, USFWS 1985). ACEC/RNA designation of this area is necessary for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the area, as well as to provide an education, research, and reference area. During June 1987, 15 acres of the most sensitive areas (e.g., spring, cave area) was fenced to exclude livestock grazing. The majority of the area is still leased for livestock grazing.

It is proposed to reduce the size of the ACEC/RNA from 404 acres to 136 acres, because additional studies, surveys, and monitoring have determined that portions of the area currently do not fully meet the relevance and importance criteria for the original designation. The new proposed area includes 136 acres located in Sections 2 and 11, T. 25 N., R. 1 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 5**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria, because it provides habitat for a population of the federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock which is endemic to the canyon grasslands found in the Lower Salmon River, Snake River, and Imnaha River canyons. The area also

meets the relevance criteria because of the natural processes (e.g., riparian, canyon upland plant communities) and occurrences of Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, land snails, and plants. The geology, limestone cave, and large limestone spring are unique for the area.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria, because it has regional and state wide significance for providing habitat for a federally listed plant, BLM sensitive wildlife, plants, and snails, and natural processes. The area is vulnerable to adverse changes, which may occur from human use of a fragile environment (e.g. limestone cave) and non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant encroachment into the area.

Findings: It is proposed to reduce the size of the existing ACEC/RNA from 404 acres to 136 acres. The supporting rationale for the reduction was that updated inventory and analysis has determined that portions of the area did not fully meet the relevance and importance criteria identified for the original designation. Portions (i.e., 136 acres) of this existing ACEC/RNA meets the relevance and importance criteria for a federally listed plant, BLM sensitive wildlife, snails, plants, geology, and natural processes and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Skookumchuck

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC/RNA in 1989 and totals 28 acres and is located approximately 3.5 air-miles south of White Bird, Idaho. MacFarlane's four-o'clock, a federally listed plant occurs in the area. The area is located between US Highway 95 and the old US Highway 95 which parallels the Salmon River. The BLM is currently managing the area in accord with a Habitat Management Plan developed in 1983 and under the MacFarlane's four-o'clock recovery plan guidance (USFWS 2000, USFWS 1985). Steep slopes and being located between two highways has restricted cattle grazing in the area. The listed plant population is in close proximity to US Highway 95, and the BLM has coordinated with the Idaho Transportation Department to control undesired vegetation along this short stretch (0.25-mile) of highway. A risk had been identified in regards to accidental herbicide drift reaching the population. The BLM is responsible for conducting weed control along the highway right-of-way in this area and has done weed control to reduce infestations into the MacFarlane four-o'clock population.

It is proposed to reduce the size of the ACEC/RNA from 28 acres to 18 acres, because updated mapping and acreage computation has determined that the correct acreage should be 18 acres. The new proposed area includes 18 acres located in Section 3, T. 27 N., R. 1 E., and Section 34, T. 28 N., R. 1 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 4**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria, because it provides habitat for a population of the federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock which is endemic to the canyon grasslands found in the Lower Salmon River, Snake River, and Imnaha River canyons.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria, because it has regional significance for providing habitat for a federally listed plant which is vulnerable to adverse impacts. The population of MacFarlane's four-o'clock occurring in this area is at threat to adverse changes,

particularly from encroachment of non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant species (e.g., yellow starthistle and Dalmatian toadflax) into native grassland habitats.

Findings: This existing ACEC/RNA with the updated corrected acreage of 18 acres, meets the relevance and importance criteria for the federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock and natural process and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Craig Mountains

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC in 1989 and is located approximately 12 air-miles south of Lewiston, Idaho, and occurs within the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area. This area contains important wildlife, fisheries, ecological, recreational, scenic, cultural, and historical resources. Idaho Department of Fish and Game has acquired a large amount of lands in the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area since the original ACEC designation. The Wildlife Management Area now encompasses a large amount of additional intermingled and acquired BLM lands. The Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area is the largest Idaho Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management Area in Idaho. At the time of ACEC designation, the largest area managed by The Nature Conservancy in the state of Idaho also occurred in this area. The BLM has since acquired the majority of The Nature Conservancy lands in the area. With the recent Idaho Department of Fish and Game and BLM acquisitions in the area, a Memorandum of Understanding for the Craig Mountain Cooperative Management Area was developed in 1997 between BLM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservance, and Idaho Department of Lands. This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for coordination and cooperation between the agencies.

The existing ACEC includes 3,956 acres and is located in the following areas:

T. 31 N., R. 4 W., Sections 5, 6, 8, and 17
T. 32 N., R. 4 W., Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 31
T. 33 N., R. 4 W., Sections 20, 29, and 34
T. 31 N., R. 5 W., Sections 1, 3, and 12
T. 32 N., R. 5 W., Sections 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, and 34
T. 33 N., R., 5 W., Section 15

It is proposed to expand this ACEC to include all BLM lands occurring in the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area. BLM lands occurring within the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area that are contiguous to the Salmon River are in the existing Salmon River ACEC. In addition to the above lands, it is also proposed to include an additional 19,428 acres of BLM lands to the ACEC, which are located in the following areas (BLM lands within Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area): T. 30, 31, and 32 N., R. 3 W.; T. 29, 30, 31, and 32 N., R. 4 W.; and T. 31 N., R. 5 W. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 6**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria for cultural; scenic; threatened and endangered species; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants; important fisheries and wildlife resources; natural processes (ecological resources); and geology. The area provides aquatic habitat for five federally listed fish and the federally listed bald eagle. The area

contains the largest plant populations of the federally listed Spalding's catchfly ~~silene~~ in the state of Idaho. The area contains portions of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria and has national significance for scenic qualities and cultural resources. The area has regional and statewide significance for wildlife, fisheries, and botanical resources, including federally listed and BLM sensitive species. The cultural resources are irreplaceable and scenic qualities are exemplary. The fisheries, wildlife, and plant communities are vulnerable to adverse changes. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant species are encroaching on native plant communities and can adversely impact wildlife habitats.

Findings: This existing ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria because of its high value scenic, cultural, fisheries and wildlife resources. Since the designation of this ACEC in 1989, Idaho Department of Fish and Game has expanded the Wildlife Management Area significantly to include additional intermingled BLM lands. It has been determined that these lands also have similar resource values which were identified for the original designation and support relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation. The existing ACEC totals 3,956 acres and it is proposed to increase the area to 23,342 acres. This existing ACEC (3,956 acres) will be carried forward along with the proposed additions (19,386 acres) for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Elk City Landfill and American Hill Lake

Description of the Area: The Elk City landfill and American Hill area was designated as an ACEC in 1989. Portions of the site have been degraded by past mining activity and use of the area as a landfill. Concerns have been identified in regards to leaching of hazardous materials and subsequent water quality impacts to American Hill Lake and American River. The criteria identified for designation was public safety and welfare. The BLM has completed restoration on the land fill site and subsequent monitoring has identified no water quality problems, and management has reduced the potential threat. However, there is still buried hazardous material located at the site. There is now a natural hazard of leaching from those materials. If the cap (soils covering site) erodes or if significant water drains to the site, the materials could become exposed or leaching could increase to where it may become hazardous.

The area includes approximately 30 acres and includes portions of Section 35, T. 29 N., R. 8 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 12**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria because of the natural hazard and buried hazardous (deleterious) materials located at the site.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria because the site has qualities which warrant highlighting because of concerns for public safety and welfare. The presence of buried hazardous materials which could leach exists at the site.

Findings: This existing ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria because of the presence of buried hazardous materials and the potential threat to public safety and welfare. The threat to public safety and welfare would occur from potential hazardous material leaching and subsequent

water quality impacts to American Hill Lake and American River. The area currently meets the relevance and importance criteria for which it was originally designated as an ACEC and will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Lower Lolo Creek

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC in 1989 and is located in the Lower Lolo Creek drainage. Lolo Creek flows into the Clearwater River at river mile 54.1. The Lower Lolo Creek drainage has high quality scenic, fisheries, and wildlife resources. Within the Lower Clearwater River subbasin, the Lolo Creek drainage has the highest priority for fisheries and providing suitable habitat for federally listed fish. The lower canyon reach of Lolo Creek is largely undeveloped and contains steep and rugged topography. Vegetation communities are dominated by early to late seral timbered stands.

This area includes 3,678 acres and includes all public lands contiguous to Lolo Creek occurring in the lower canyon (mouth to stream mile 7.8). These lands occur in Sections 13 and 24, T. 35 N., R. 2 E.; and Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 35, T. 35 N., R. 3 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 7**).

Relevance Criteria: This area meets the relevance criteria for having segments of two National Historic Trails; scenic qualities; fisheries and wildlife resources; federally listed steelhead trout and bull trout; BLM sensitive wildlife, fish, amphibians, and reptiles; and natural processes (plant communities, riparian, and aquatic).

Importance Criteria: The area has national significance, because it contains segments of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Trail. The area has regional and statewide significance for its scenic quality, wildlife and fisheries resources, and natural processes. Fisheries and wildlife resources and natural processes are vulnerable to adverse changes, particularly land uses that would degrade habitat quality. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant infestations are also a threat in areas.

Findings: This existing ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria because of its high value scenic qualities; cultural, fisheries, and wildlife resources; and natural processes. The BLM has also acquired a conservation easement on private lands near the mouth of Lolo Creek which connects with the large tract of public lands in the lower canyon. Since the designation of this ACEC in 1989, the BLM has acquired additional lands within the drainage. Public lands upstream from the existing ACEC area have been determined to contain and/or support relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation. The existing ACEC totals 3,678 acres. This existing ACEC will be carried forward for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Upper Lolo Creek

Description of the Area: Within the Lower Clearwater River subbasin, the Lolo Creek drainage has the highest priority for fisheries and providing suitable habitat for federally listed fish. The upper breaklands have moderate to steep slopes. Vegetation communities are dominated by early to late seral timbered stands.

The proposed Upper Lolo Creek ACEC would include 1,625 acres of public lands contiguous to Lolo Creek up to the Forest Service boundary (stream mile 24.9), and these lands are located in the following areas: Section 1, T. 34 N., R. 3 E.; Sections 6, 7, 8, and 15, T. 34 N., R. 4 E.; and Sections 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, T. 34 N., R. 5 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 7**).

Relevance Criteria: This area meets the relevance criteria for having segments of two National Historic Trails; scenic qualities; fisheries and wildlife resources; federally listed steelhead trout and bull trout; BLM sensitive wildlife, fish, amphibians, and reptiles; and natural processes (plant communities, riparian, and aquatic).

Importance Criteria: The area has national significance, because it contains segments of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Trail. The area has regional and statewide significance for its scenic quality, wildlife and fisheries resources, and natural processes. Fisheries and wildlife resources and natural processes are vulnerable to adverse changes, particularly land uses that would degrade habitat quality. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant infestations are also a threat in areas.

Findings: This proposed ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria because of its high value scenic qualities; cultural, fisheries, and wildlife resources; and natural processes and will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Lower Salmon River (Confluence to White Bird Creek)

Description of the Area: This area was designated as an ACEC in 1989 and includes public lands that are contiguous to the Salmon River from the confluence with the Snake River to White Bird Creek. The ACEC includes all public lands along the river corridor.

The Lower Salmon River corridor has high resource values for scenic, recreation, cultural, fisheries, wildlife, and ecological resources. The area provides important habitat for a large variety of wildlife species. The scenic qualities and cultural resources have national significance. The Lower Salmon River ACEC area encompasses primarily canyon grasslands and over-steepened canyon slopes; with moderately sloped terraces, toeslopes, and benches. The Salmon River is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states (425 miles), and therefore provides an example of a riverine ecosystem unchanged by dams or impoundments.

This area includes 15,702 acres and includes all lands contiguous to the Salmon River from the mouth (river mile 0.0) to White Bird Creek (river mile 53.6), and includes BLM lands in the following areas: T. 28, 29, and 30 N., R. 1 E.; T. 30 and 31 N., R. 1 W.; T. 30 and 31 N., R. 2 W.; T. 29, 30, and 31 N., R. 3 W.; and T. 29 N., R. 4 W. It is also proposed to include an additional 497 acres of public lands contiguous to the Salmon River which have been acquired after the original designation in 1989, and these lands are located in the following areas: Sections 9 and 10, T. 28 N., R. 1 E.; Section 26, T. 30 N., R. 1 W.; and Sections 23, 24, and 25, T. 31 N., R. 3 W. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 8**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria for cultural resources; scenic qualities; threatened and endangered species; BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, plants, and fish;

critical and important fisheries and wildlife habitats; natural processes (ecological resources); and geology. The area is occupied by federally listed species and includes sockeye salmon, fall chinook salmon, spring/summer chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, and Spalding's catchfly~~silene~~. ~~-~~The area contains portions of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria and has national significance for scenic qualities and cultural resources. The area has regional and statewide significance for wildlife, fisheries, and botanical resources, including federally listed and BLM sensitive species. The cultural resources are irreplaceable and scenic qualities are exemplary. The cultural resources are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The fisheries, wildlife, and plant communities are vulnerable to adverse changes. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant species are encroaching on native plant communities and can impact wildlife habitats.

Findings: This existing ACEC meets the relevance and importance criteria because of its high value scenic qualities; and cultural, fisheries, botanical, and wildlife resources. The BLM has also acquired extensive, permanent conservation easements on private lands within the ACEC to protect critical scenic qualities and cultural resources. Since the designation of this ACEC in 1989, the BLM has acquired additional lands (613 acres) along the river corridor, and these lands are proposed to be included with the existing ACEC. These areas also have been determined to meet the relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation. This existing ACEC totals 15,702 acres, and it is proposed to increase the area to 16,199 acres. This existing ACEC will be carried forward along with the proposed additions for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

Partridge/Elkhorn

Description of the Area: This site occurs within the Partridge and Elkhorn Creek drainages, which are tributaries of the Salmon River. Partridge Creek flows into the Salmon River at river mile 99.2 and Elkhorn Creek flows into the Salmon River at river mile 101.1. Mid- to late-seral timbered stands within the area contain large ponderosa pine trees which provide potential for old growth stands. Several of the stands currently meet criteria for old growth. Over 90% of the area is in pristine conditions. The area is approximately nine air-miles east of Riggins, Idaho.

The area includes approximately 576 acres and these lands are located in portions of Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, T. 24 N., R. 3 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 11**).

Relevance Criteria: This nomination meets the relevance criteria for a natural process or system. The scientific assessment done for ICBEMP indicates that vegetation has changed significantly from historic conditions (Wisdom et al. 2000). Some forest types and structures have declined, while others have increased. Significant changes compared to historic include loss of "open" stands of mature and old growth ponderosa pine forests. This area provides habitat for several BLM sensitive wildlife species that are associated with mature and old growth ponderosa pine stands which are found in portions of the area.

Importance Criteria: This area meets the importance criteria for a natural process or systems and provides habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife. "Open" stands of mature and old growth ponderosa

pine have declined because of timber harvest and lack of natural fire. Because of dense understory vegetation, commonly called "ladder fuels", many of these stands may be at risk for stand replacement fires if understory fuels burn excessively and contribute to crown fires in these stands.

Findings: This nomination meets the relevance and importance criteria for a natural process or system and provides habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife species and will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS. Portions of the area may also warrant consideration for potential designation as an RNA.

Little Salmon River

Description of the Area: This site occurs within face drainages of the Little Salmon River and is located on the east side of the canyon, upriver from the mouth of Hazard Creek. Mid- to late-seral timbered stands within the area contain large ponderosa pine trees which provide potential for old growth stands. Several of the stands meet criteria for old growth. Portions of the area have been selectively logged in the past. The area is approximately 17 air-miles south of Riggins, Idaho.

The area includes approximately 590 acres and these lands are located in portions of Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25, T. 21 N., R. 1 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 9**).

Relevance Criteria: This nomination meets the relevance criteria for a natural process or system. The scientific assessment done for ICBEMP indicates that vegetation has changed significantly from historic conditions (Wisdom et al. 2000). Some forest types and structures have declined, while others have increased. Significant changes compared to historic include loss of "open" stands of mature and old growth ponderosa pine forests. This area provides habitat for several BLM sensitive wildlife species that are associated with mature ponderosa pine stands which are found in portions of the area.

Importance Criteria: This area meets the importance criteria for a natural process or systems and provides habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife. "Open" stands of mature and old growth ponderosa pine have declined because of timber harvest and lack of natural fire. Because of dense understory vegetation, commonly called "ladder fuels", many of these stands may be at risk for stand replacement fires if understory fuels burn excessively and contribute to crown fires in these stands.

Findings: This nomination meets the relevance and importance criteria for a natural process or system and provides habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife species and will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS. Portions of the area may also warrant consideration for potential designation as an RNA.

Upper Salmon River (White Bird Creek to French Creek)

Description of the Area: This area includes public lands that are contiguous to the Salmon River from White Bird Creek to French Creek. This includes all public lands along the river corridor, which are generally 0.25- to 0.50-mile from the river.

The Lower Salmon River corridor has high resource values for scenic qualities, and recreation, cultural, fisheries, wildlife, and ecological values. The area provides important habitats for a large

variety of wildlife species. The scenic and cultural resources have national significance. The Lower Salmon River ACEC area encompasses primarily canyon grasslands and over-steepened canyon slopes, with moderately sloped terraces, toeslopes, and benches. The Salmon River is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states (425 miles), and therefore provides an example of riverine ecosystem unchanged by dams or impoundments. Highway 95 parallels the Salmon River between the communities of White Bird and Riggins. Several other small communities occur in the area, and include Slate Creek and Lucile. Residences also occur on private lands in the area.

This area includes 5,759 acres and includes all lands contiguous to the Salmon River or generally within 0.25- to 0.50-mile from the Salmon River from the White Bird Creek (river mile 53.6) to French Creek (river mile 104.8). The proposed Upper Salmon River ACEC includes BLM lands in the following areas: T. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 N., R. 1 E.; and T. 24 N., R. 1, 2, and 3 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 10**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria for cultural resources; scenic qualities; threatened and endangered species; BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, plants, and fish; important fisheries and wildlife habitats; natural processes (ecological resources); and geology. The area contains portions of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The area is occupied by federally listed species and includes sockeye salmon, fall chinook salmon, spring/summer chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, and MacFarlane's four-o'clock.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria and has national significance for scenic qualities and cultural resources. The area has regional and statewide significance for wildlife, fisheries, and botanical resources, including federally listed and BLM sensitive species. The cultural resources are irreplaceable and scenic qualities are exemplary. The fisheries, wildlife, and plant communities are vulnerable to adverse changes. Non-native (noxious and other weeds) plant species are encroaching on native plant communities and can impact wildlife habitats accordingly.

Findings: This nomination meets the relevance and importance criteria because of its high value scenic, cultural, fisheries, botanical, and wildlife resources and will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

East Fork American River

Description of the Area: This site occurs within the East Fork American River drainage, which is a tributary to American River. The East Fork American River flows into American River at river mile 10.6. The drainage provides habitat for federally listed wildlife and fish; and BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants. The area contains high quality examples of riparian and aquatic habitats and important wildlife habitat areas. The area is timbered and contains mid- to late-seral conifer stands. Some of the riparian area stands contain very large Engelmann spruce trees. The area occurs in the upper South Fork of the Clearwater River subbasin and is approximately three air-miles north of Elk City, Idaho.

The area contains approximately 570 acres and these lands are located in portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T. 29 N., R. 8 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 12**).

Relevance Criteria: The area meets the relevance criteria for fish and wildlife resources and natural processes. The area provides habitat for the federally listed gray wolf and Canada lynx. The federally listed steelhead trout and bull trout occur in the East Fork American River. The stream also provide good quality aquatic habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon and westslope cutthroat trout, which are BLM sensitive species. The area provides suitable habitats for a variety of BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants. The mature and old growth stands associated with the drainage bottom, riparian habitats, and stream, provide an excellent relic area for riparian and aquatic processes in the American River drainage, particularly when many of the larger drainages in the area have been impacted by a variety of land uses such as mining, roading, timber harvest, and development.

Importance Criteria: The area meets the importance criteria because of federally listed species, BLM sensitive species, and natural processes. These areas are vulnerable to adverse changes which may degrade the natural processes and habitats, and include roading, timber harvest, and mining. The area has more than locally significant qualities for the upper South Fork of the Clearwater River subbasin and this drainage provides good quality fish habitat and excellent water quality. Within the American River drainage, this stream provides good cold water refugia for fish and the riparian areas and stream channel have not been impacted by dredge mining.

Findings: This nomination meets the relevance and importance criteria because it contains habitat for and has populations of federally listed species, BLM sensitive species, and provides for high quality riparian, aquatic, and important wildlife habitats. The area will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

American River Historic Sites District

Description of Area: The American River Historic Sites District is located in the Elk City township (T. 29 N., R. 8 E.), which occurs in the upper South Fork Clearwater River subbasin. The Elk City township is an inholding within the Nez Perce National Forest, and is surrounded by Forest Service lands. The area is predominantly moderately sloping basin lands and terraces with slopes of 0 – 40%. Over steepened slopes occur primarily along major streams and rivers. The predominant habitat types in the area are a mosaic of the grand fir series, which are in various seral stages. Dominant overstory vegetation may include grand fir, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir. The larger rivers included in area are the South Fork Clearwater River, American River, and Red River.

The general area has a long and complex history of mining and mining claim activity. In May, 1861, gold was discovered in the area and by that fall, the town of Elk City was laid out boasting a population of 2,000. The Elk City mining district became distinguished by the extent of its ditch construction.

The area provides habitat for federally listed wildlife and fish; and BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants. Because of a variety of land uses, the area is generally rated as providing poor to fair condition examples of riparian, aquatic, and wildlife habitat areas. The area is timbered and contains early-, mid-, and late- seral conifer stands. The area is approximately 30 air-miles east of Grangeville, Idaho.

The area contains ~~6,356~~6,330 acres of BLM lands which are located in portions of the Elk City township (T. 29 N., R. 8 E.). These lands are located in portions of Sections 13, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, T. 29 N., R. 8 E. (see **Appendix N-2**, **Map 12**).

Relevance Criteria: This nomination meets the relevance criteria for cultural, fish and wildlife resources, and natural processes. Known cultural resources for this area represent virtually every known type of historic hydraulic and lode mining and are located in a small geographic area. Examples of sites include reservoirs, ditches, flumes, hydraulic mine cutbanks, dredge tailings, adits, shafts, as well as abandoned mill sites. The area provides habitat for populations of the federally listed steelhead trout, bull trout, gray wolf, and bald eagle. The area also provides habitats for a variety of BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants. The area also meets relevance criteria for natural hazards, because the township occurs within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area. Some stands of vegetation, dead and dying timber, fuel loading and potential for wildfires provides a hazard to residences and the community of Elk City.

Importance Criteria: The area has regional significant qualities for cultural resources. Various land uses may potentially result in irreplaceable impacts to cultural resources. The area is also vulnerable to adverse changes which may result in impacts to habitats for special status species and potential degradation of the natural processes. However, because the habitats for fisheries and wildlife have been adversely impacted to varying levels by a variety of land uses, the area does not fully meet the importance value for these resources. The area does occur within a WUI which does have potential for wildfires and provides a hazard to the community of Elk City. However, many residences and communities may be prone to wildfire hazards, and such has local significance primarily.

Findings: This nomination meets the relevance and importance criteria because of high value cultural resources. This nomination will be carried forward as a potential ACEC for additional analysis and consideration in the draft RMP/EIS.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A total of 16 existing and new areas were nominated for ACEC status and were recommended for consideration and to be evaluated as part of the CFO planning process. These included areas previously designated in the 1989 Land Use Plan amendment; existing ACECs proposed for modification and new areas nominated by the BLM review team; and nominations received from the public as part of scoping. As a result of work completed by the BLM review team, 16 nominations meet both the relevance and importance criteria. These proposals will move forward for additional consideration in the alternatives for the RMP and will be analyzed further. These 16 potential ACECs are listed in **Table N-2**. After completing the analysis of the effects of each alternative and reviewing public comments, the preferred plan alternative will identify which potential ACECs are proposed for designation.

Table N-3
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Area Name	Values of Concern	Acres
Wapshilla Ridge (Existing ACEC/RNA – 1989)	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands and BLM Idaho Watch List plant (Idaho RNA cell for basalts).	401 Existing
Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands (Existing ACEC/RNA – 1989)	Natural processes, designated RNA, riparian, Palouse ~~p~~Prairie remnant, Clearwater River islands	43 Existing
Captain John Creek (Existing ACEC/RNA 1989)	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands, Douglas fir, and riparian (Idaho cell). Captain John Creek provides habitat for listed steelhead and spring/summer chinook salmon, and Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.	1,321 Existing
Long Gulch (Existing ACEC/RNA 1989)	Natural processes, designated RNA for federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	47 Existing
Lucile Caves (Existing ACEC/RNA 1989 – proposed for reduction in size)	Natural processes, designated RNA, federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock, Idaho BLM sensitive plants, wildlife and snails; limestone cave and spring; geology	404 Existing 136 New
Skookumchuck (Existing ACEC/RNA – 1989)	Natural processes, designated RNA for federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	28 Existing 18 New
Craig Mountain (Existing ACEC 1989 – proposed for expansion in size)	Designated ACEC, scenic, cultural, federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's catchfly~~silene~~; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants	3,956 Existing 23,342 New
Elk City/American Hill Lake (Existing ACEC 1989)	Natural hazards, designated ACEC because of concerns for safety and public welfare	30 Existing
Lower Lolo Creek (Existing ACEC 1989)	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, federally listed fish; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; National historic trail	3,678 Existing
Upper Lolo Creek	Cultural, scenic, federally listed fish; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; National historic trail	1,625 New
Lower Salmon River (Confluence to White Bird Creek) (Existing ACEC 1989 – proposed for expansion in size)	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's catchfly~~silene~~; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural processes	15,702 Existing 16,199 New
Partridge/Elkhorn	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife	576 New
Little Salmon	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife	590 New

Table N-3
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern *(continued)*

Area Name	Values of Concern	Acres
Upper Salmon River (White Bird Creek to French Creek)	Cultural, scenic, federally listed fish, bald eagle, and MacFarlane's four-o'clock; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural processes	5,759 New
East Fork of American River	Listed fish, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants; natural processes; riparian and wetlands; and old growth Engelmann spruce.	570 New
American River Historic Sites District	Cultural resources, historic mining	6,356 New

REFERENCES CITED

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USDI-BLM. 1988. BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

USDI-BLM. 1989. Plan amendment for the Emerald Empire and Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan to designate 12 areas as Research Natural Areas (RNA) and/or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, Boise, ID, and Coeur d'Alene District, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

USDI-BLM. 1989. Plan Amendment for the Emerald Empire and Chief Joseph Management Framework Plans to Designate 12 Areas as Research Natural Areas (RNA) and/or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

USFWS. 2000. Revised recovery plan for MacFarlane's four-o'clock (Mirabilis macfarlanei). Region 1, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR. 46pp.

USFWS. 1985. Recovery plan for the MacFarlane's four-o'clock, Mirabilis macfarlanei. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR. 47pp.

Wisdom, J.J., R.S. Holthausen, B.C. Wales, C.D. Hargis, V.A. Saab, D.C. Lee, W.J. Hann, T.D. Rich, M.M. Rowland, W.J. Murphy, and M.R. Eames. 2000. *Source Habitats for Terrestrial Vertebrates of Focus in the Interior Columbia Basin: Broad-scale Trends and Management Implications, Volumes 1-3.*

APPENDIX N-1: RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE CRITERIA

Identification of Criteria

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance as defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2 (*BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*). Normally, the relevance and importance of an existing ACEC are revaluated only when new information or changed circumstances or the results of monitoring establish the need.

Relevance

An area meets the "relevance" criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archaeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).
2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).
4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.

Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

APPENDIX N-2: MAPS OF EXISTING AND NOMINATED ACECS

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MAP 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Wapshilla Ridge ACEC/RNA

N
W E
S

T 30 NR 04 W 004
T 30 NR 04 W 003
T 30 NR 04 W 002
T 30 NR 04 W 001
T 30 NR 04 W 005
T 30 NR 04 W 008
T 30 NR 04 W 009
T 30 NR 04 W 010
T 30 NR 04 W 011
T 30 NR 04 W 012
Wapshilla Ridge
T 30 NR 04 W 015
T 30 NR 04 W 017
T 30 NR 04 W 016
T 30 NR 04 W 014
T 30 NR 04 W 013
T 30 NR 04 W 020
T 30 NR 04 W 021
T 30 NR 04 W 022
T 30 NR 04 W 023
T 30 NR 04 W 024
T 30 NR 04 W 027
T 30 NR 04 W 032
T 30 NR 04 W 033
T 30 NR 04 W 034
T 30 NR 04 W 035
T 30 NR 04 W 036

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Roads and Trails
- Wapshilla Ridge ACEC/RNA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Idaho Fish & Game
- State of Idaho
- Other Government Lands
- Private
- Streams

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece,
Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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MAP 2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office
Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Captian John Creek ACEC/RNA

T 33 NR 04 W 019
T 33 NR 04 W 020
T 33 NR 04 W 021
T 33 NR 04 W 022
T 33 NR 04 W 023
T 33 NR 04 W 030
T 33 NR 04 W 029
T 33 NR 04 W 028
Fort Simons Ridge
T 33 NR 04 W 027
T 33 NR 04 W 026
T 33 NR 04 W 031
T 33 NR 04 W 032
T 33 NR 04 W 033
T 33 NR 04 W 034
T 33 NR 04 W 035
T 32 NR 04 W 006
T 32 NR 04 W 005
T 32 NR 04 W 004
T 32 NR 04 W 003
T 32 NR 04 W 002
T 32 NR 04 W 007
T 32 NR 04 W 008
T 32 NR 04 W 009
T 32 NR 04 W 010
T 32 NR 04 W 011
T 32 NR 04 W 019
T 32 NR 04 W 020
T 32 NR 04 W 021
T 32 NR 04 W 022
T 32 NR 04 W 023
2 NR 04 W 017

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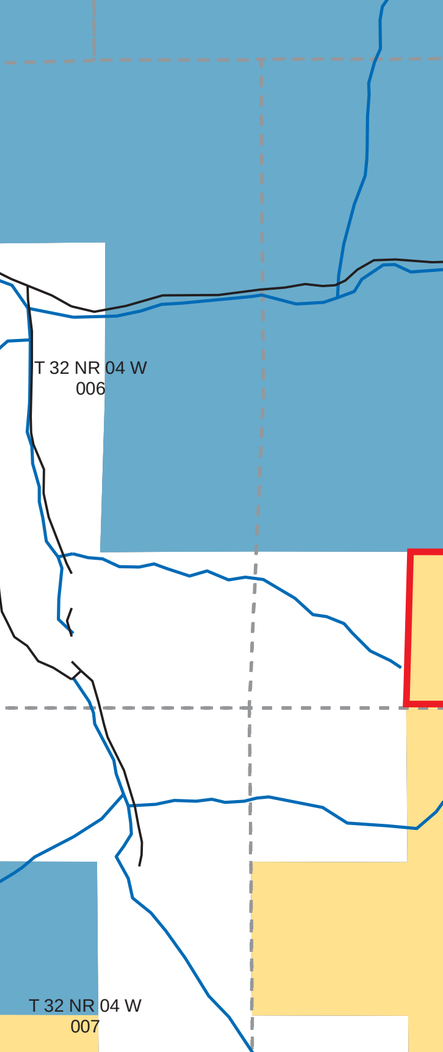
Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522



Legend

- Roads and Trails
- Captain John Creek ACEC/RNA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Idaho Fish & Game
- State of Idaho
- Other Government Lands
- Private
- Streams

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece,
Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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MAP 3

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Lower & Middle Cottonwood Islands ACEC/RNA

T 37 NR 03 W
029

T 37 NR 03 W
028

T 37 NR 03 W
027

N
W
E
S

T 37 NR 03 W
032

T 37 NR 03 W
033

T 37 NR 03 W
034

Clearwater River

Myrtle

T 36 NR 03 W
005

T 36 NR 03 W
004

T 36 NR 03 W
003

T 36 NR 03 W
009

T 36 NR 03 W
010

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Cottonwood F.O.

IDAHO

Legend

- Roads and Trails
- Cottonwood Islands ACEC/RNA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Other Government Lands
- Private
- Streams

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece, Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

Miles
0 0.1 0.2 0.4

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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MAP 4

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Skookumchuck & Long Gulch ACEC/RNA's

T 28
NR 01 E

T 28
NR 02 E

N
W
E
S

Haystack
Mountain

Skookumchuck

Taylor

Salmon River

T 27 NR 01 E

T 27 NR
02 E

Grave
Point

Slate
Creek

Long Gulch

Center
Ridge

T 26 NR 01 E

T 26
NR 02 E

rings Ridge

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Roads and Trails
- ACEC/RNA
- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Idaho
- US Forest Service
- Private

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece,
Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

Miles
0 0.375 0.75 1.5

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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MAP 5

Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office
Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Lucile Caves ACEC/RNA

T 26 NR 01 E 034
T 26 NR 01 E 035
T 26 NR 01 E 036
T 26 NR 02 E 031
Lucile
T 25 NR 01 E 003
T 25 NR 01 E 002
T 25 NR 01 E 001
T 25 NR 02 E 006
McKinley Mine
Salmon River
T 25 NR 01 E 010
T 25 NR 01 E 011
T 25 NR 01 E 012
T 25 NR 02 E 007
T 25 NR 01 E 014
T 25 NR 01 E 013
T 25 NR 02 E 018
T 25 NR 01 E 023

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Proposed Lucile Caves ACEC/RNA
- Existing Lucile Caves ACEC/RNA
- Roads and Trails
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- State of Idaho
- Private

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece, Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

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MAP 6

Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office
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Craig Mountain ACEC/RNA

T 33 NR 05 W
T 33 NR 04 W
T 33 NR 032 W
T 33 NR 03 W
T 33 NR 02 W
Taplin
Forest
N
W
E
S
T 32 NR 04 W
T 32 NR 03 W
T 32 NR 02 W
T 32 NR 05 W
Gold Hill
Craig Mountain
Deer Creek Mine
Zaza
T 31 NR 05 W
T 31 NR 04 W
Frye Point
T 31 NR 03 W
T 31 NR 02 W
T 31 NR 05 W
Snake River
Salmon River
Wapshilla Ridge
Rattlesnake Ridge
T 30 NR 04 W
T 30 NR 03 W
T 30 NR 02 W
T 29
Dellas

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Bureau of Land Management
- Idaho Fish & Game
- State of Idaho
- Other Government Lands
- Private
- Craig Mtn ACEC/RNA Proposed Additions
- Original Craig Mtn ACEC/RNA
- Streams

Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece,
Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

0 1 2 4 Miles

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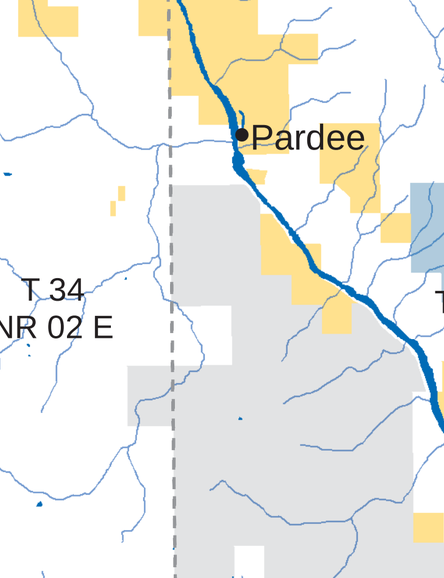
MAP 7

Upper & Lower Lolo Creek ACEC

Grangemont
T 37 NR 02 E
T 37 NR 03 E
T 37 NR 04 E
T 37 NR 05 E
T 37 NR 06 E
N
W
E
S
Pierce
Gold Hill
T 36 NR 02 E
T 36 NR 03 E
T 36 NR 04 E
T 36 NR 05 E
T 36 NR 06 E
Greer
T 35 NR 02 E
T 35 NR 03 E
Lower Lolo Creek
Weippe
T 35 NR 04 E
T 35 NR 05 E
T 35 NR 06 E
Brown Creek Ridge
Woodland
Pardee
T 34 NR 02 E
T 34 NR 03 E
T 34 NR 04 E
Paunch Mountain
Upper Lolo Creek
T 34 NR 05 E
T 34 NR 06 E
Caribel
Glenwood
Kamiah
Kidder
Maggie Butte
Harris Ridge
T 33 NR 04 E
Kidder Ridge
T 33 NR 05 E
Woodrat Mountain
T 33 NR 06 E
Koos
Stewart, M
Ridge

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522



Legend

- Upper Lolo Creek ACEC
- Lower Lolo Creek ACEC
- Bureau of Land Management
- Other Government Lands
- State of Idaho
- US Forest Service
- Private

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece, Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

0 1 2 4 Miles

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MAP 8

Lower Salmon River ACEC
(Confluence to White Bird Creek)

T 32 NR 04 W
T 32 NR 03 W
T 32 NR 02 W
T 32 NR 01 W
T 32 NR 01 E
T 32 NR 02 E
WESTLAKE
GREENCREEK
N
W
E
S
Cottonwood Butte
COTTONWOOD
KEUTERVILLE
T 31 NR 03 W
T 31 NR 02 W
T 31 NR 01 W
T 31 NR 01 E
T 31 NR 02 E
Frye Point
T 31 NR 04 W
DENVER
Salmon River
Moughmer Ridge
FENN
Bingman Ridge
Rattlesnake Ridge
T 30 NR 04 W
T 30 NR 03 W
T 30 NR 02 W
T 30 NR 01 E
T 30 NR 02 E
Price Ridge
BOLES
T 30 NR 01 W
T 29 NR 04 W
Pool Knob
T 29 NR 03 W
Dellas Peak
Fall Point
T 29 NR 02 E
White Bird Hill
Hewed Log Ridge
Mockmer Butte
CANFIELD
T 29 NR 01 W
T 29 NR 01 E
DAVIDSON
Sugarloaf Butte
Sugarloaf Knob
T 29 NR 02 W
Grouse Ridge
Abercombie Ridge
Kerlee Ridge
Mollie Point
Knob, The
Windy Ridge
Dry Point
Windy Point
Biddle Ridge
JOSEPH
Joe Point
Center Ridge
Battle Ground
T 28 NR 03 W
White Bird Ridge
Snake River
T 28 NR 02 W
Saddle Horse Ridge
Giants Nose
WHITEBIRD
T 28 NR 01 W
T 28 NR 01 E
T 28 NR 02 E
Highrange Ridge
Coyote Ridge
Camp Howard Ridge
Haystack Mountain
T 27 NR 02 W
Wild Horse Ridge
Wild Horse Butte
T 27 NR 01 W
T 27 NR 01 E
T 27 NR 02 E
Mountain

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Lower Salmon Proposed Additions
- Lower Salmon River ACEC
- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Idaho
- Idaho Fish & Game
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Private
- Roads and Trails

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece, Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

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MAP 9

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Little Salmon River ACEC

T 21 NR 01 E 003
T 21 NR 01 E 002
T 21 NR 01 E 001
T 21 NR 02 E 006
T 21 NR 02 E 005
T 21 NR 01 E 010
T 21 NR 01 E 011
T 21 NR 01 E 012
T 21 NR 02 E 007
T 21 NR 02 E 008
Little Salmon River
T 21 NR 01 E 015
T 21 NR 01 E 014
T 21 NR 01 E 013
T 21 NR 02 E 018
T 21 NR 02 E 017
T 21 NR 01 E 022
T 21 NR 01 E 023
T 21 NR 01 E 024
T 21 NR 02 E 019
T 21 NR 02 E 020
T 21 NR 01 E 027
T 21 NR 01 E 026
T 21 NR 01 E 025
T 21 NR 02 E 030
T 21 NR 02 E 029
T 21 NR 01 E 035

N
W E
S

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Cottonwood F.O.

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Legend

- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Idaho
- Little Salmon River ACEC
- Private
- US Forest Service
- Roads and Trails

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece,
Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6

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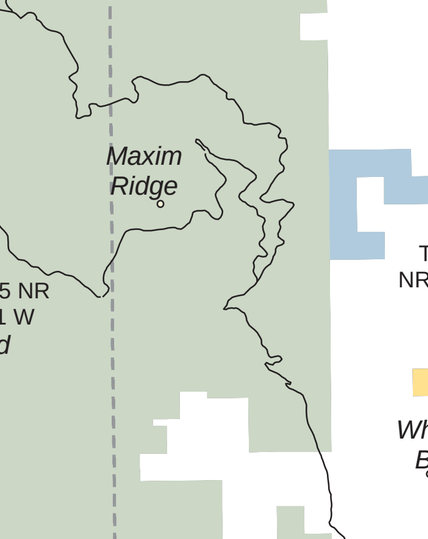
MAP 10

Upper Salmon River ACEC
(White Bird Creek To French Creek)

T 28 NR 01 W
T 28 NR 01 E
T 28 NR 02 E
T 28 NR 03 E
T 28 NR 04 E
Camp Howard Ridge
Haystack Mountain
Free Use Point
Jungle Point
Asbestos Peak
Delmage Ridge
N
W
E
S
Sly Ridge
Bouffard Ridge
Gabe Ridge
Dairy Mountain
Patrol Point
T 27 NR 01 W
T 27 NR 01 E
T 27 NR 02 E
T 27 NR 03 E
T 27 NR 04 E
Slate Creek
Grave Point
Gospel Hill
Arrison Ridge
Little Round Top
Round Top
Center Ridge
Table Lands
Slate Point
Telephone Ridge
Mud Springs Ridge
T 26 NR 01 W
T 26 NR 01 E
T 26 NR 02 E
T 26 NR 03 E
T 26 NR 04 E
Dead Point
Johnson Ridge
Marten Hill
Brushy Ridge
Phillips Ridge
Wickiup Butte
Lucile
John Day Mountain
Maxim Ridge
Southwest Butte
T 25 NR 01 W
T 25 NR 01 E
T 25 NR 02 E
T 25 NR 03 E
T 25 NR 04 E
Padrick Ridge
Van Ridge
Round Knob
Chair Point
Looking Glass Butte
Whiskey Butte
Keating Ridge
Preacher Mountain
Riggins
Berg Mountain
Kelly Mountain
Salmon Point
Riggins Hot Springs
French Creek
T 24 NR 01 E
T 24 NR 02 E
T 24 NR 03 E
T 24 NR 04 E
Schoolmarm Peak
Warm Springs Point
Dogtown
Indian Mountain
Sheep Mountain
Point

Area of Detail



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Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
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Cottonwood, ID 83522

Legend

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Upper Salmon River ACEC
- State of Idaho
- Private
- Roads and Trails

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Map Created: March 2006

0 1 2 4 Miles

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MAP 11

Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office
Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement
Partridge/Elkhorn ACEC

T 24 NR 02 E 002
T 24 NR 02 E 001
T 24 NR 03 E 006
T 24 NR 03 E 005
T 24 NR 03 E 004
T 24 NR 03 E 003
T 24 NR 03 E 002
T 24 NR 02 E 011
T 24 NR 02 E 012
T 24 NR 03 E 007
T 24 NR 03 E 008
T 24 NR 03 E 009
T 24 NR 03 E 010
T 24 NR 03 E 011
Kelly Mountain
T 24 NR 02 E 014
T 24 NR 02 E 013
T 24 NR 03 E 018
T 24 NR 03 E 017
T 24 NR 03 E 016
T 24 NR 03 E 015
T 24 NR 03 E 014
T 24 NR 02 E 023
T 24 NR 02 E 024
T 24 NR 03 E 019
T 24 NR 03 E 020
T 24 NR 03 E 021
T 24 NR 03 E 022
T 24 NR 03 E 023
Salmon River
T 24 NR 02 E 026
T 24 NR 02 E 025
T 24 NR 03 E 030
T 24 NR 03 E 029
T 24 NR 03 E 028
T 24 NR 03 E 027
T 24 NR 03 E 026
T 24 NR 03 E 035
T 24 NR 03 E 032
T 24 NR 03 E 031
T 24 NR 03 E 033
T 24 NR 03 E 034
T 24 NR 02 E 035
T 24 NR 02 E 036
T 23 NR 03 E 002
T 23 NR 02 E 002
T 23 NR 02 E 001
T 23 NR 03 E 006
T 23 NR 03 E 005
T 23 NR 03 E 004
T 23 NR 03 E 003
T 23 NR 03 E 007
T 23 NR 03 E 008
T 23 NR 03 E 009
T 23 NR 03 E 010
T 23 NR 03 E 018

N
W
E
S

Area of Detail

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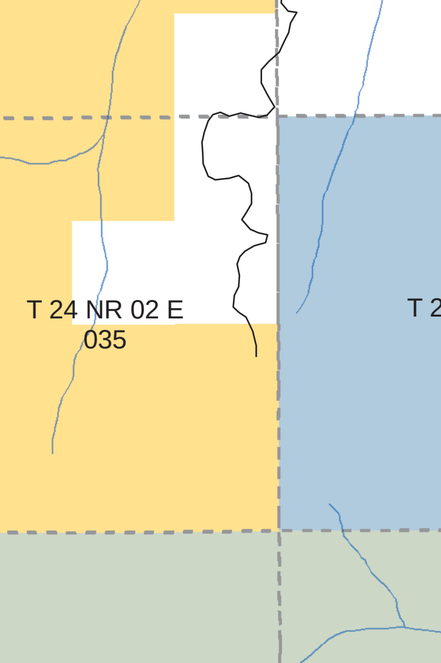
Cottonwood, ID 83522



Legend

- Roads and Trails
- Partridge/Elkhorn ACEC
- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Idaho
- US Forest Service
- Private

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Map Created: March 2006

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement
Elk City American Hill Lake, East Fork American River, American River Historic Sites District ACEC's

MAP 12

Ericson Ridge
East Fork American River
American River Historic Sites District
Sweeny Hill
Elk City
Elk City Landfill/American Hill Lake
Mother Lode Hill
N
W
E
S

Area of Detail

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

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Legend

- Roads and Trails
- East Fork American River ACEC
- Elk City/American Hill Lake ACEC
- American River Historic Sites District ACEC
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Private

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Spatial Data Source: Idaho Department of Commerece, Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.
Map Created: March 2006

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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