

**Environmental Assessment
For
Owyhee Ridge Complex Communications Site Management Plan**

EA Number: OR-030-03-011

Preparation Date: 06/21/04

BLM Office: Malheur Field Office, Vale District, BLM

Proposed Action: Communication Site Plan

Location of Proposed Actions:

Willamette Meridian, Oregon

**T.22S., R.45E sec 13 NE¹/₄, sec 21 NW¹/₄, sec 27 SW¹/₄ ,
sec 34 NW¹/₄**

T.23S., R.45E., sec 3 SE¹/₄, sec 9 NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄, sec 15 NW¹/₄

T.22S., R.46E., sec 6 SE ¹/₄ sec 7 NE¹/₄, sec 19 NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄

I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to implement a communication site management plan for the Owyhee Ridge communication site complex. Owyhee Ridge is located eight miles southwest of Adrian, Oregon, and approximately 30 miles south of Vale, Oregon, in Malheur County. Although the site complex is currently being used as a communication site, no management plan has been developed. There are three right-of-way communication use lease holders currently on Owyhee Ridge, the BLM, Owyhee Irrigation District, and R & S Media

The Vale BLM proposes to implement the Owyhee Ridge Complex Communication Site Management Plan. The Plan defines, for right-of-way applicants applying for communication site leases, site management for the Owyhee Ridge Communication Site Complex.

The Vale BLM has looked at various ridges and mountain tops on Owyhee Ridge to determine potential suitable locations for future communications sites/facilities. The areas were labeled as follows: Site A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K. Sites E, F, and G, I, and L, were dropped as possible site locations, after further consideration. Please refer to Appendix "A" map and Plan for details.

The communication site complex plan would provide a framework to guide BLM's future actions at the site complex, and provides for the orderly, planned and compatible use of public lands comprising the Owyhee Ridge Communication Site Complex. The plan would help fulfill the public need for adequate communication sites, protect the interests of lease holders and site users by preserving a safe and electronically "clean" environment, and encourage the efficient development and use of space and facilities within the designated complex. All users and uses would be subject to the BLM goal to provide the

best possible public service at reasonable cost to meet resource management objectives.

2. CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLANS

The Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (SEORMP) September of 2002, includes the subject public lands. The proposed action conforms to this land use plan as required by the regulations found at 43 CFR 1610.5-3 (a). This action is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision September, 2002 page 109, SEORMP which states the need to develop communication site plans that enhance site quality.

This action is in conformance with the BLM Manual 2860.1.11.A. and with the objectives described in the BLM Manual Handbook, H-2860-1.

The proposed action conforms to Goal 9 of the Oregon Statewide Planning Goals (1974), which calls for diversification and improvement of the economy and the proposed action does not conflict with the Malheur County Strategic Plan (1996).

3. RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The authority for the issuance of rights-of-way is Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 STAT. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).

4. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

4.1 PROPOSED ACTION – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Implementation of the Owyhee Ridge Communication Site Complex Management Plan would provide a framework to guide BLM’s future management for the complex. The plan is designed to direct complex management, a process to accommodate multiple tenants/customers, to provide access for all site users, and guidelines for the construction of facilities that have minimum impact to the immediate area and surrounding resources. Since the Owyhee Irrigation District (site A) facility and BLM (site B) facility lie in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), (the Owyhee River below the Dam), any building expansion outside the BLM and Owyhee Irrigation District authorization’s would be limited by management prescriptions of the ACEC. The objectives of the complex management plan are as follows:

1. To document site complex management policy, procedures and standards, which are not already specified in the standard communication site lease/rights-of-way.

2. To present a program for future growth, development, and operations.
3. To protect the interests of right-of-way holders in preserving a compatible “clean” environment for the electronic community.
4. To provide for future expansion/upgrades (compatible with existing authorized users and use) to meet anticipated public demand for communication site facilities, and to ensure safety guidelines are met.
5. To encourage the efficient development and use of space and facilities within the designated complex, subject to the BLM goal to provide the best possible public service at reasonable cost while meeting resource management objectives.
6. To help fulfill the public need for adequate communication sites.
7. Maintain visual quality objectives by requiring design standards that are unobtrusive, and by utilizing earth tone colors and non-reflective surface material consistent with the standards in the SEORMP.
8. To provide for sufficient electronic interference separation by facility site for existing and future high and low power users.

4.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, BLM would continue to process right-of-way applications as they are received, with each one considered on its own merit instead of establishing a plan that guides the development of the complex in a progressive and orderly manner.

The “no action” alternative would not affect cultural or paleontological resources in ways other than are currently occurring. Direct impacts to cultural and fossil resources that result from livestock concentration would continue. The exposure of cultural and fossil resources would continue at the current rate.

4.3 OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Other alternatives include not having a site complex plan and allowing each applicant to pick and choose alternate sites which would result in greater disturbance to the area. Because BLM intends to set the direction of the complex, other alternatives will not be considered further.

5. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A general description of the area may be found in the Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan.

The communication site complex is located approximately eight miles southwest of Adrian, Oregon, or approximately 30 miles south of Vale, Oregon at an elevation ranging from approximately 3640 feet to 4658 feet.

Currently, BLM, Owyhee Irrigation, and R & S Media hold communication site leases for communication sites on Owyhee Ridge. Additional users are expected in the future. All right-of-way applications would receive the normal review to meet the standards of NEPA, but in most cases minimal documentation would be necessary. There is additional information describing the existing and future operations at this communication complex in the attached Communication Site Management Plan.

Cultural Resources:

Pre-European contact Native American peoples were extremely well adapted to their environment. The subsistence economy was strongly oriented toward gathering and collecting because plant foods were more abundant and dependable than fowl, fish or mammals. Mammals provided skins, furs, tools and many other by-products of aesthetic and practical value. Insects were often eaten. Beetles, grasshoppers, locusts, crickets, ants and caterpillars were consumed, as well as most eggs and larva. Historic documents indicate that several hundred plants were used by the Indians of the Great Basin for medicinal purposes, fiber sources and food. The Native people of the Great Basin, who practiced the ancestral lifeways into the 19th century, were heirs to an extremely ancient cultural tradition with a technology both effective and efficient, with many multi-functional, light-weight and expendable tools. The area along the Owyhee River provided camping areas throughout the winter and spring months as well as allowing access to higher elevations during the summer. The diverse habitat provided a wide variety of plant and animal resources that were utilized by Native Americans.

Exploration into this area during the Historic period began with the expeditions of John Jacob Aster, after he heard the stories from the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. The first written observations of southeastern Oregon can be found in journals kept by men involved in the expansion of fur trapping territory. Trapping occurred along the major and minor tributaries in the area: Owyhee, Snake, Malheur, North Fork Malheur and South Fork Malheur Rivers. The era of the fur trade provided the basis for American families to travel west. For Native Americans, increased use of the Oregon Trail burdened grazing resources, killed off game, and displaced resident bands. As Native Americans were moved to Reservations, homesteads replaced the Native American winter camps along the Owyhee River. Water wheels were constructed to move water from the river to

homesteads, cultivated fields and orchards. The main access route was up the Owyhee River along the floodplain, a road now inundated by Owyhee Reservoir users.

Field surveys for cultural resource have been limited to areas where BLM has proposed surface-disturbing projects and therefore limited in scope. Sites known to be present in the area reflect the diverse prehistoric and historic use of the area along and adjacent to the Owyhee River.

Paleontological Resources

Surveys for fossil flora and faunal resources have been limited in this area. However, in areas where Miocene age lakebed sediments are exposed fossil resources are likely. The Sucker Creek and Deer Butte formations are two of the most famous and most extensive ash flows of the Miocene era. The ash and lava expelled during the middle Miocene occurred during one of the most explosive volcanic episodes which resulted in calderas up to 22 miles in diameter. Both Formations yield preserved fossil plants such as oak, pine, willow and maple as well as vertebrate fossils of horse, rhinoceros, peccary, camel and oreodonts. Newly identified fossil localities have yielded fossil species of moles, shrews, bats, rabbits, and other rodents.

No paleontological resources are known to exist on the eight sites. If any are encountered during project construction, they would be avoided.

Wildlife:

The topographic features and plant communities support wildlife typical of the Great Basin in the ecotone between the northern Owyhee Uplands and the Snake River Plains. The affected area of Owyhee Ridge supports a mosaic of Wyoming big sagebrush, saltbrush desert scrub and annual grasslands growing on substrates that vary from deep volcanic soils to bare rock outcrops. The upper slopes of the Ridge contain more perennial grasses and native forbs in the understory than does the lower slopes. Small riparian areas in the vicinity of the Owyhee Reservoir to the west, provides water within the annual range of many native wildlife species. The large elevation differences within the project area result in longer periods of favorable temperature/moisture for wildlife.

No federal T&E species are known or anticipated in the project area. Special Status Species identified in the RMP that are known or suspected from the project area includes: loggerhead shrike, western burrowing owl, western sage-grouse, Mohave black-collared lizard, desert horned lizard, and northern sagebrush lizard. One or more of these species utilizes each habitat type affected by the proposed project. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Eagle Act and EO 13186 provides federal protection to individuals birds and those species that travel across international borders, and directs federal agencies to address activities that

significantly affect birds and bird habitats. One currently occupied sage-grouse lek is located at T.22S., R.46E., Section 7 NWNE, which is adjacent to suitable nesting habitat. Migratory and other bird species of concern in the project area includes long-billed curlews, sage sparrows, Brewers sparrows, golden eagles, and prairie falcons. Game species of interest for recreational hunting includes mule deer, pronghorn, chukar, California valley quail, and mourning dove.

Other wildlife commonly found in the project area includes species such as black-tailed jackrabbits, coyotes, deer mice, kangaroo rats, rock and canyon wrens, horned larks, western fence lizards, western rattlesnakes, gopher snakes, as well as many insect and arachnid species. These species contribute to the biodiversity of the western landscape and provide food for other species, cycle nutrients and constitute an important, though seldom recognized part of the ecosystem.

Land Uses:

Historically, the Owyhee Ridge Communication Site Complex has been used for livestock grazing and lies in the Mahogany Allotment (No. 0500), Blackjack Allotment (No. 0501), and the Lower Owyhee River Allotment (No.0502).

There is no mineral activity at the present time in the complex area. The economic mineral potential has not been determined. There is no expected impact.

Owyhee Irrigation District has a communication site located at site A, BLM has a communication site located at site B, and R & S Media has a communications site lease for Site D1. Site A has been in use since the 1940's and was authorized in 1979. Site B was established in 1975 to serve BLM administrative needs. Site D1 has been identified as a high power radio transmitter site and a right-of-way was issued for that site in July of 2003. The Sites that are located on various ridges and labeled as: C, D, H, J, and K, have been identified as potential communication sites for future development. It is anticipated as the Boise Metropolitan area grows, there will be an increased demand for communication site services. Because of the line of site and the elevations, the Owyhee Ridge Communication Site Complex has value for locating transmitters and receivers for higher frequency radio, television, and phone communication devices to reach the Boise Metro area.

Recreation:

The project site complex is located within an area which receives dispersed recreational use through activities such as hunting and driving for pleasure on backcountry dirt roads.

Soils: The soils found in the area of the proposed project were surveyed and described in Oregon's Long Range Requirements for Water 1969, Appendix I-II,

Owyhee Drainage Basin. The same soil type is found at all sites. These soils occur on slopes of 3 to 12 percent.

Unit 76 soils are shallow, clayey, very stony, well drained soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff. These soils occur on gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus and some very steep faulted and dissected terrain. Native vegetation consists mostly of big sagebrush, low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Sandberg bluegrass.

Noxious Weeds

Cheatgrass, a non-native annual, is abundant in most disturbed sites within the Owyhee Ridge area. Medusahead rye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), another non-native annual grass, is also present. Other annuals include a variety of introduced mustards, predominantly clasping (*Lepidium perfoliatum*) and tumble pepperweeds (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*), kochia (*Kochia scoparia*) and lambsquarter (*Chenopodium sp.*). Small sites of Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthus*), a biennial, is present, especially along roads and other disturbed ROWs. Whitetop (*Cardaria draba*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) all long-lived perennials, are known to exist within the surrounding area, as well as a small site of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) that was discovered in the Devil's Gate area during the summer of 2001. Some nearby drainages and seeps support individual saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) shrubs.

Vegetation: Natural vegetative communities of Owyhee Ridge are dominated by sagebrush; other plant species occurring on the area include native grasses and forbs. No special plant species are known in the area. Specific sites for potential facilities support a mosaic of Wyoming big sagebrush, (*Artemisia Tridentata ssp. Wyomingensis*) saltbrush desert scrub and grasslands growing on substrates that vary from deep volcanic soils to bare rock outcrops. The upper slopes of the Ridge support more perennial grasses and native forbs in the understory than the lower slopes, which are dominated by weedy annual species.

Special Status Plants: No special status plant species are known or suspected to occur at or near any of the potential sites which have been identified to support communications facilities along Owyhee Ridge. Within the general region of northern Succor Creek west to Owyhee Reservoir, five special status plant species mostly occupy specific habitats. Smooth blazing star (*Metzelia mollis*) and Cusick's chaenactis (*Chaenactis cusickii*) are found on highly specific bentonitic ash formations within the region which are not found near the potential communications sites. Smooth blazing star is listed by the state of Oregon as Endangered, and Cusick's chaenactis is a Bureau Sensitive (BS) species. Weak-stemmed milkvetch (*Astragalus solitarius*), sterile milkvetch (*Astragalus sterilis*) and Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*) occupy more typical sagebrush

grasslands, with the clover and sterile milkvetch found mostly on a light-colored substrate not found near the potential sites. Solitary milkvetch is a BS species; sterile milkvetch is listed by the state of Oregon as Threatened; and the clover is listed by the state of Oregon as Endangered. None of these species have been found along Owyhee Ridge at or near the specific communications sites.

Visual Resources: Facility Sites A & B are within a Class I visual resource management (VRM) area. The remaining facility sites are within a Class IV VRM area. The management objective for each of these classes is the following:

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 IV- Provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the 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.

The sites C, D, D1, H, J, & K have a VRM class IV rating. However, every attempt would be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Water Resources: Surface water is intermittent, with runoff resulting from precipitation and snow melt occurring mostly in the spring and fall seasons. Subsurface water has not been tapped, and there are no water storage facilities on Sites A, B, C, H, J, K except for an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) water storage facility (guzzler) located near Site D and near Site I. The guzzler at site D was not in working condition and was damaged further in a range fire in August of 2003. Mitigation measures were to relocate the guzzler to another area, prior to the fire. There is also a guzzler located near proposed site I on Blackjack Butte, however site I was dropped due to the proximity of a currently occupied lek.

Because of the elevation, the site is snow covered from November through February and sometimes into March; depending on the year.

The watershed where the project is located drains into the Owyhee River in the Lower Owyhee River subbasin (17050110). The Owyhee River drains into the Snake River and subsequently to the Columbia River.

Wetlands and Floodplains: Flood hazards are limited to seasonal runoff, and largely confined to the drainages. There are no floodplains or wetlands on Sites A through K.

Air Quality: Air quality on sites A through K is generally high. The principal sources of air pollution comes from dust storms or range wildfires; which are set by dry lightening storms, arson, or residue burning on agricultural lands in the western Treasure Valley area.

6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

6.1. IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Impacts to resources considered critical are summarized in the table below. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

Critical Element	Affected		Critical Element	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
Cultural Resources		X	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid		X
Environmental Justice		X	Water Quality (surface & groundwater)		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Invasive, Non-native Species		X	Wilderness		X
Native American Religious Concerns		X			

Cultural and Paleontological Resources Impacts

A survey for cultural resources was conducted at sites A, B, C, D, E, H, I, J, and K on May 14, 2001, October 28, 2004 and May 13, 2004. (Site E was dropped) Cultural resources discovered during the survey were recorded and will be avoided. If any of the locations are selected for use, fossil floral or faunal resources located during the survey, will also be flagged and avoided as necessary.

Mollusks and fish fossils are found within a one meter thick stratum of the Deer Butte formation in yellowish-gray volcanic sandstone. Fishes are found in the siltstone, sandstone and conglomerate of a lakeshore or flood basin environment in the Middle Miocene Deer Butte Formation. Fish fossils represented include: minnow, catfish, dace, salmonides, sculpin and sucker.

Wildlife

Impacts of the proposed action on wildlife are expected to include both short and long term impacts and be relatively limited in spatial extent.

The construction of new access roads, powerlines, towers, buildings, and fences in the proposed areas will locally remove vegetation which constitutes wildlife habitat in the short term. While some plant regrowth will occur following the initial clearing, roads and areas adjacent to the facilities will likely remain barren. Loss of vegetation will reduce forage availability, remove hiding and escape cover, and potentially disrupt travel routes of area wildlife. Vegetation removal followed by seeding would limit establishment of noxious weeds, and would facilitate recovery of more desired habitat structure.

Short term, direct impacts to wildlife will be incurred during site visits in the planning, construction, and maintenance phases of the projects due to human activities. The severity of the disturbance will depend on the species disturbed, and the duration, season, and type of activity performed. Frequent disturbance will reduce suitability of the areas for wildlife occupancy.

Powerline poles, towers, buildings, and fences will increase perch availability for both predatory and non-predatory birds. These additional habitat features in an environment lacking tall structures will likely increase the use of the area by raptorial bird species such as red-tailed hawks and golden eagles. An increase in predation upon small reptiles, mammals, and birds will occur. While the extent of the area impacted by the building, tower, and fencing is limited spatially, powerline routes expand the area of less desirable habitat, and if new routes are required for each site, could compound predation issues in the area.

Increased road densities can impact game species such as pronghorn and chukar by allowing for disruption and increase hunter access to available habitat. Members of the public are likely to be attracted to the proposed project area out of curiosity. While most visits likely will cause only minor disruption of wildlife, some proportion of the visits will result in greater degrees of disturbance due to activities such as firearm discharge, cross-country driving of off-road vehicles, littering, and other human activities.

Another impact to wildlife includes the juxtaposition of potential communication sites and existing wildlife guzzlers. Sites B, D, and D1 are all within one half mile of an existing guzzler for chukars, deer, pronghorn, small mammals, neotropical migratory birds, and reptiles. Failure to remove those guzzlers a short distance from a proposed site or associated facilities will likely greatly increase predation of local wildlife due to increased prey density and vulnerability at the guzzler sites.

Recreation

Hunting activities may be temporarily disrupted during period of facility construction, expansion and reconstruction.

Soils

Ground disturbances from construction of the proposed project usually produces only short-term localized impacts to soils and overland runoff when Basic Management Principles are applied and the project is developed properly. Development of access roads results in short-term soil instability until the road or berm is revegetated. Long term use of the access road will increase soil compaction resulting in long-term loss of vegetation along the wheel tracks.

Special Status Plants

No impacts would occur to special status plants as a result of this project.

Visual Resources

ACEC management prescriptions would preclude increased adverse visual impacts at facility sites A&B. Activities at facility sites C-K would meet Class IV VRM objectives with mitigative actions employed.

6.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The choice of a no action alternative could result in the BLM not effectively providing for the orderly development of communication sites to meet anticipated public demand for communication site facilities. The difference would be the lack of an established set of standardized stipulations and guidelines for each grant and the lack of method to develop the site complex in a progressive and orderly manner.

Portions of the communication site complex are already developed, moving the communication site complex to another location is not feasible.

No additional vegetation or soil disturbance on the subject land would occur as a result of the choice of this alternative. Without a communication site management plan, there could be disorganized, inefficient development of the communication sites throughout the entire communication complex.

The “no action” alternative would not affect cultural or paleontological resources in ways other than are currently occurring. Direct impacts to cultural and fossil resources that result from livestock concentration would continue. The exposure of cultural and fossil resources would continue at the current rate.

Impacts on recreation activities would be the same as the Proposed Action. Impacts on visual resources would be the same as the Proposed Action, except with possible greater numbers of facility sites developed thus not concentrated use sites to lessen the extent of visual intrusions over the long term.

7. MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

In general, adverse environmental impacts would not be significant. Soil disturbance would be minimized through adherence to the terms and conditions of the right-of-way, and right-of-way stipulations. Private and government right-of-way needs for communication sites would be satisfied. Site quality would be preserved and maintained, and the plan would be in compliance with the BLM Manual 2860.1.11.A. and with the objectives described in the BLM Manual Handbook, H-2860-1. Roads to all site locations except site J are all ready in existence and are BLM maintained. At site J minor road improvements will be needed to access the summit where an existing road is present. Any new power line to a site would be covered under a separate EA, should the applicant require electric power to the site versus using propane or solar power. Stipulations for fire prevention would be included in special stipulations attached to the grant.

Upon receiving a proposal to develop a communication site, a site visit will be conducted to determine if wildlife at any of the existing guzzlers will be impacted by the new construction. In attendance will be the area wildlife biologist and a representative from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). If impacts associated with the new facilities area anticipated at the guzzler locations, appropriate NEPA will identify the requirement that the applicant remove the existing guzzler, and construct a replacement at a site determined by the area biologist and an ODFW representative.

To limit the occurrence of collisions, powerlines will be configured and constructed to provide protection for avian species as detailed in BLM technical references such as “Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Powerlines: (1996).

To prevent the spread of weeds during surface-disturbing construction and maintenance activities, the holder shall ensure that all construction equipment and vehicles are cleaned of all vegetation (stems, leaves seeds and all other vegetative parts) prior to entering public lands in order to minimize the transport and spread of noxious weeds.

During surface-disturbing construction and maintenance activities, the holder shall ensure that all construction equipment and vehicles are cleaned of all vegetation (stems, leaves seeds and all other vegetative parts) prior to leaving public lands in areas that are known by the Authorized Officer of the BLM to be infested with noxious weeds.

A communication site complex management plan sets an example to promote organized, efficient development throughout the area and limit indiscriminate random development of communication facility sites. For this reason, the cumulative impacts of this plan would be positive. Rights-of-way are not irreversible; a facility site could be restored to a natural state.

8. PERSONS CONSULTED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Susie Manezes	Realty Specialist/Team Lead
Diane Pritchard	Archaeologist
Lynne Silva	Weed Specialist
Shaney Rockefeller	Soil Scientist
Al Bamman	Wildlife Biologist
Brandon Knapton	Wildlife Biologist
Jean Findley	Botanist
Vern Pritchard	Engineer
Bob Alward	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jon Freeman	Realty Specialist
Mitch Thomas	Rangeland Management Specialist
Jon Westfall	Geologist
Tom Dabbs	Field Office Manager
Randy Eyre	Fire
Scott Hamilton	Communication Specialist/Tech

9. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Owyhee Ridge Communications Site Management Plan be implemented as described in the Proposed Action section above. The site complex will be systematically developed to maximize the number of compatible uses while ensuring safety and protection of resources while meeting other resource management objectives.

The United States owns the surface and mineral estates of the subject lands. The subject lands have no unique values, and there are no pending land use applications other than this.

The issuance of a right-of-way communication use lease grant would be consistent with Title V of FLPMA and with the regulations found at 43 CFR 2800.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan.

PREPARER: Susie K. Manezes Date: 6/21/2004