U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

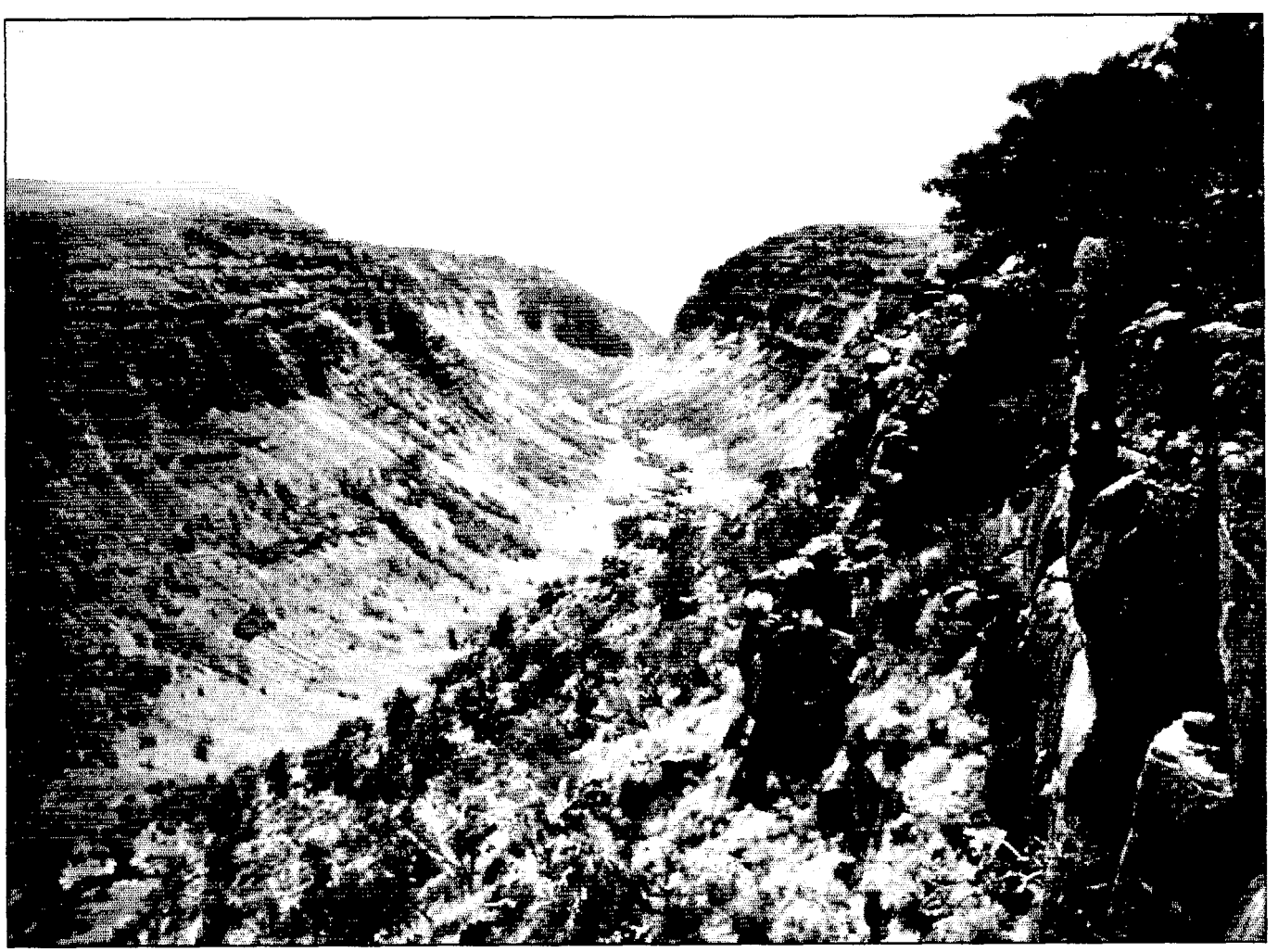
Burns District Office
HC 74, 12533 Hwy 20 West
Hines, Oregon 97738

FINAL

May 1993

Donner und Blitzen National Wild & Scenic River

Management Plan Environmental Assessment



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protesting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people The Department also has a major responsibility fcr American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-93/18+1792

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE
HC 74-12533 Hwy 20 West
Hines, Oregon 97738

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8300(026)

May 7, 1993

Dear River User:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Final Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

This is a combined management plan and environmental assessment for the Donner und Blitzen River.

The final management plan was completed after building a foundation by starting with the designation of interim boundaries in 1989, selecting a Citizen Advisory Group, developing a resource assessment, identifying issues, developing alternatives, and analyzing effects in a draft plan. This plan discusses the proposed action for management of the river corridor to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values.

As part of your right, within 30 days of the receipt of this decision, you may protest to the Burns District Manager and thereafter appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations of 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4.40. The protest to the District Manager must be filed in writing in this office, If no protests or appeals are filed, this decision will become effective and be implemented in 30 days.

If you have any questions regarding the river management plan, please feel free to write our office at the above address, or call me at (503) 573-5241.

Thank you for your interest in your public lands.

Sincerely,

Glenn T. Patterson
Andrews Resource Area Manager

Enclosure (as stated)

DONNER UND BLITZEN

NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER

MANAGEMENT PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(EA-OR-020-2-72)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BURNS DISTRICT - OREGON

PREPARED BY
FRED Y. MCDONALD, RESOURCE SPECIALIST
LUCILLE M. ROBERTS, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER PLAN
DONNER UND BLITZEN

This river plan establishes a comprehensive set of actions to provide the Donner und Blitzen River with a level of resource protection. management, and public use consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The plan covers 74.8 miles of the Blitzen River and its tributaries.

The river plan develops management guidelines for public land within the designated corridor. It focuses on protection and enhancement of: the outstandingly remarkable values within the corridor.

Issues were identified and developed through input from the public and working with a Citizen Advisory Group. These issues and alternatives were discussed in the Draft Management Plan/Environmental Assessment of June 1992. Please refer to the Draft Management Plan for a discussion of the affected environment, the alternatives, and a summary of environmental consequences. Also. refer to the draft plan showing the condition of streams by segments (maps) for riparian and aquatic habitat.

The proposed action will provide direction for managing the resources within the river corridor. They will:

1. Provide for protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These values have been identified in the Resource Assessment and the Affected Environment section of the river management plan.

2. Take into account the rights and interest of landowners and user groups, while minimizing conflicts and impacts to the river environment.

3. Utilize baseline data such as rangeland monitoring studies, Ecological Site Inventory, and information from 199 I and 1992 inventories on riparian, aquatic habitat, and cultural resources.

4. Establish a timeline for implementing management actions and what the desired future trends of the river corridor will be.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD
EA-OR-020-2-Z

I have reviewed the River Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River, Including the explanation and resolution of any potential significant impacts.

The Proposed Plan is the result of public input to the draft plan and recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Group. Changes made to the plan are statements shown in ***bold italic*** print. *I* have determined that the Proposed Plan, with the built-in mitigation measures, will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Under the alternatives analyzed, significant impacts on quality of the human environment will not occur based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality.

Public health or safety will not be significantly affected.

The Bureau managed lands within the legal river corridor boundary will remain in federal ownership under all alternatives. This will ensure protection of riparian resources (floodplain/wetland).

The alternatives are not part of any other action having the potential for cumulatively significant impacts to the important and relevant (ACEC) resource values in the planning area.

Cultural resources on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places will not be adversely affected, nor would Native American religious sites.

The Alternatives will not significantly affect endan gered or threatened species or their habitat determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The alternatives do not violate federal, state, or local legal requirements for environmental protection, or are there any known inconsistencies with officially approved or adopted federal, state, tribal, or local resources plans, policies or programs.

Adverse impacts identified are minimal. Continued resource monitoring will ensure that no significant adverse impacts occur. As needed, appropriate management action will be instituted to protect outstandingly remarkable values, important natural and cultural resources, and impacts to threatened or endangered species habitat.1 have also determined that the Proposed Plan and all alternatives are in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan.

It is my decision to adopt and implement the Pro osed Plan as described in the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, inclu8ing all management guidelines and built-in mitigating measures.

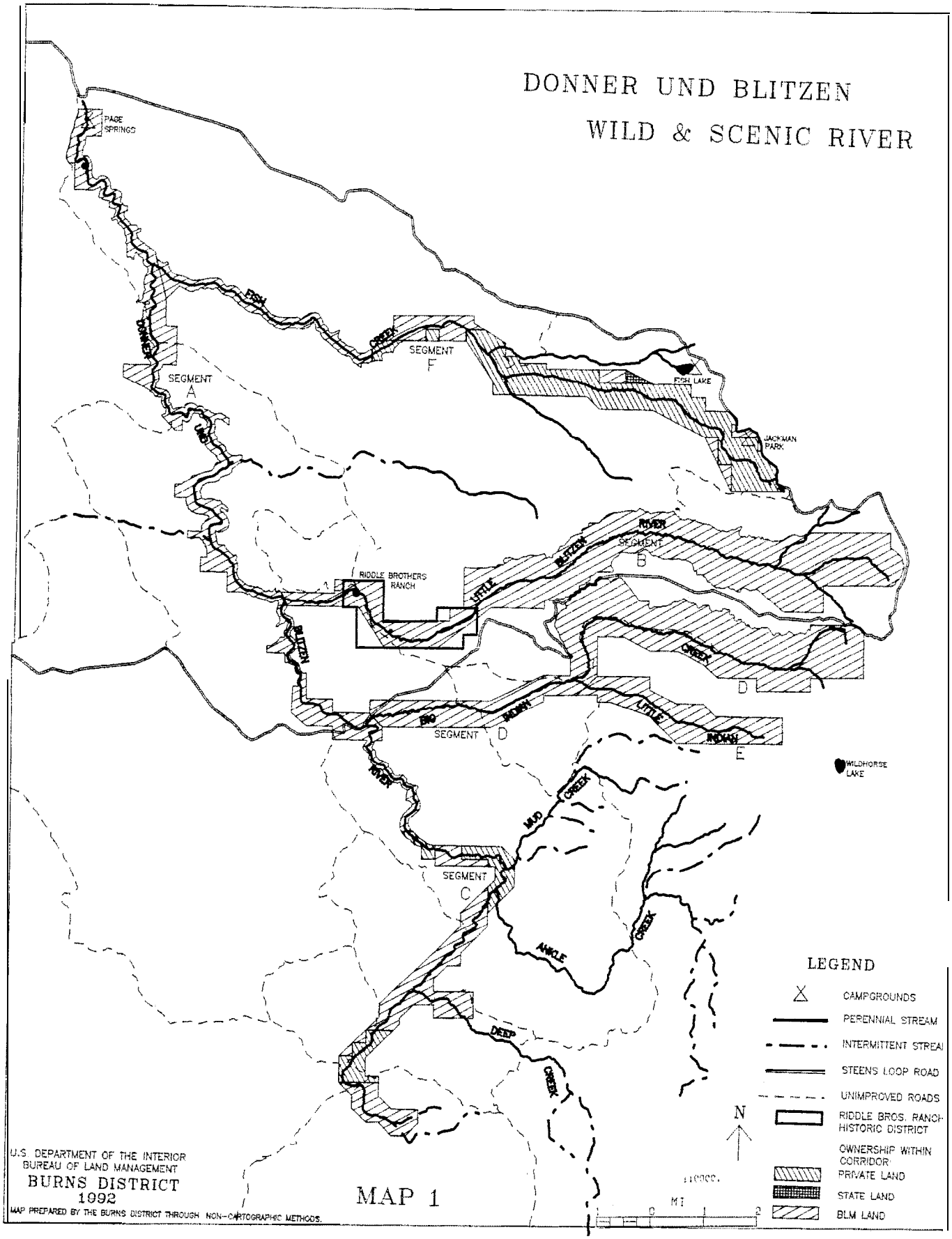
The Proposed Plan will protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values along with water quality over the next 15 years.

Glenn T Patterson

Glenn Patterson, Andrews Resource Area Manager

2/16/93

Date


DONNER UND BLITZEN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER
PAGE SPRINGS
DONNER UND BLITZEN RIVER
FISH CREEK
SEGMENT A
SEGMENT F
FISH LAKE
JACKMAN PARK
RIDDLE BROTHERS RANCH
LITTLE BLITZEN RIVER
SEGMENT B
BIG BROWN CREEK
SEGMENT D
LITTLE BROWN CREEK
SEGMENT E
WILDHORSE LAKE
MUD CREEK
SEGMENT C
ANKLE CREEK
DEEP CREEK
LEGEND
CAMPGROUNDS
PERENNIAL STREAM
INTERMITTENT STREAM
STEENS LOOP ROAD
UNIMPROVED ROADS
RIDDLE BROS. RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
OWNERSHIP WITHIN CORRIDOR
PRIVATE LAND
STATE LAND
BLM LAND
N
MI
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BURNS DISTRICT
1992
MAP 1
MAP PREPARED BY THE BURNS DISTRICT THROUGH NON-CARTOGRAPHIC METHODS.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

The Donner und Blitzen River, also known as the Blitzen River and its tributaries, is located approximately 70 miles south of Burns, Oregon. The river and its tributaries originate on the west slopes of the Steens Mountain and flow in a northwesterly direction before entering the 185,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is dependent upon the water generated on the Steens. Much of the river's length is situated in deeply carved canyons. The proposed final boundary configuration includes 22,625 acres.

BACKGROUND

Native Americans, including the Northern Paiute, inhabited the Steens Mountain region as long as 8,000 to 10,000 gears ago.

During the period of 1826 to 1829, the first recorded history began with the exploration and exploitation of the area for the fur trade by the Snake Country expeditions. While exploring die region and trapping beaver on his third and fifth trips, Peter Skene Ogden came into the Malheur Lake Basin near the Steens.

In 1845, the last wagon train led by Steven Meeks mistook the snow-capped Steens for the Cascade Mountains as they enrered the Harney Basin.

In 1860, the U.S. Army sent Major Enoch Steen to protect the settlers and to determine the feasibility of a road from southeastern Oregon to the Willamette Valley. His party named many prominent topographic features, including Steens Mountain. In 1864, during a thunderstorm, Captain George B. Curry and his command were forced to cross a river on the west slope of the Steens. He named the river "Donncr und Bli tzen," which is German for thunder and lightning.

Cattle were driven into the area in 1872. By the 1900's, many cattle ranches had been established in the lush valleys surrounding the Steens. At one

time, prior to the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, over 100,000 sheep and cattle grazed the Steens Mountain.

In the 1940's and 1950's, recreational use started to occur on the Steens. In 1962, the Steens Mountain Loop Road, which allowed vehicle access to the top of the mountain, was completed. Recreational use has become a primary activity since the completion of the Loop Road. In 1972, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, recognizing the importance of the recreational opportunities, administratively designated the Steens as a "recreation lands" area (43 CFR Part 2070).

In 1991, 17.916 visitors came to the Steens to participate in a variety of recreational activities. A lot of this recreational use occurred in and adjacent to the Blitzen River and its tributaries.

On October 28, 1988, Congress passed Public Law 100-557, titled, "The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988." This act amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and added 40 new rivers the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Donner und Blitzen River was one of the rivers designated by the Onmibus Act as follows::

"(A) The 16.75-mile segment of the Donner und Blitzen from its confluence with the South Fork Blitzen and Little Blitzen;
"(B) The 12.5-mile segment of the Little Blitzen from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork Blitzen;
"(C) The 16.5-mile segment of the South Fork Blitzen from its headwaters to its confluence with the Little Blitzen:
"(D) The 1 It-mile segment of Big Indian Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork Blitzen:
"(E) The 3.7-mile segment of Little Indian Creek from its headwaters to its confluence wi th the Big Indian Creek, and
"(F) The 13.25-mile segment of Fish Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the Donner und Blitzen."

The Wild and Scenic River is referenced throughout this document by river Segments A through F. These segments are described above and can be reviewed on the map.

The designated portion of the Donner und Blitzen River is to be managed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office located at HC-74, 12533 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97238.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Through the development of the resource assessment, the river-related values, or features. were identified either as outstandingly remarkable ot contributing substantially to the river seating or ecosystem. This includes the following categories:

Scenic
Geologic
Recreational
Fish and Wildlife
Vegetation
Cultural (Traditional practices/prehistoric)
Cultural (Historic)
Other Values

Scenic

The designated river corridor for the Donner und Blitzen River contains a diversity of landforms and vegetation that captures the attention of the viewer. The river and its tributaries pass through several vegetation zones which are the result of climatic factors such as temperature and precipitation. Elevations also influence the vegetation zones found within the river corridor.

The progression, from the lower sagebrush/bunchgrass community to the upper subalpine zone, gives depth and variety to the different settings from

which the viewer experiences the scenery. It is one of the greatest qualities of this river system. In the upper elevations, river users have an opportunity for a primitive experience viewing textbook examples of glaciated canyons and deep basalt. formations of the main Donner und Blitzen River. These viewsheds are largely untouched and in a natural condition.

Portions of the river system fall within the Steens Mountain Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Fifty thousand five hundred acres were designated to protect and enhance the viewshed of the Steens. With such a diversity of landscapes within a river system, the visual quali ties result in an outstandingly remarkable value.

Geologic

Steens Mountain is unique because it is the. northern-most, uplifted fault block within the Basin and Range Province. It is the largest fault block within the State of Oregon. with well-defined escarpments and graben valleys.

Surface rock in the area is predominantly Steens Basalt, which consists of thin, multiple flows of basalt approximately 15 million years old. The basalt has a cumulative thickness of several thousand feet. Thin patches of rhyolite ash-flow tuffs occur sporadically throughout the area.

The area is unique within its geographic region because the upper 2,000 feet of the Steens was shaped during the ice age. The ice age brought heavy snows and ice to the Steens, capping the mountain in a blanket of white at least 6 miles down the west side. Glaciers formed in the creek and streambeds, and the intense weight of the snowcap caused depressions on the surface of the mountain. The glaciers carved and gouged down over 2,500 feet to a layer of very hard basalt.

A second glacial advance was confined to the upper sections of the gorges and scarp. The second advance created smaller cirques, or hanging valleys, in the highest areas of the existing gorges.

The area today provides textbook examples of U-shaped glaciated canyons, These geological features result in an outstandingly remarkable value,

Recreational

A use survey, conducted in 1988 for the Steer-is Mountain Recreation Lands (which includes the Donner und Blitzen Rivet), showed that Steens Mountain is visited by recreation& of geographically diverse origins. Sixty-four percent of the visitors to the S teens are frotn western Oregon. 19 percent from eastern Oregon, and 17 percent from outside states such as Washington, Idaho, California, and Nevada.

The Steens Mountain is a destination area due to its remote location, unique resource characteristics and associated recreation opportunities. Visitors travel long distances to recreate because of the following attributes:

The river canyons offer high scenic quality in the form of glaciated canyons, along with a variety of diverse vegetation due to climatic conditions.

The river provides a rare 2 to 4-day backpack trip or horseback experience for individuals with moderate skill levels. Portions of the Oregon High Desert Trail are within sections of the river canyons.

Existing recreation uses that are exceptional in quality include fishing, hunting, hiking. photography? wildlife, and scenic viewing. Due to the small size of the stream, the river segments are not used for boating and the river is considered a nonnavigable river.

All but a small section of the Donner und Blitzen River lies within the Steens Mountain Recreation Lands. The 1972 designation of the Steens Mountain Recreation Lands recognized the importance of the outstanding recreational opportunities within the area. With the quality

and types of recreational activities available, this results in an outstandingly remarkable value.

Fisheries

The Donner und Blitzen River supports a wild, native redband trout population. The redband trout and Malheur mottled sculpin are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Candidate 2 Threatened and Endangered species. Historically, the Blitzen River and its tributaries have provided excellent angling for native redband trout and is recognized by anglers as one of Oregon's finest wild trout streams. Currently, no known Native American cultural use of fisheries is identified in this river system.

Fish species in the Donner und Blitzen River above Page Springs Dam are redband trout, mountain whitefish, redside shiner, longnose dace, and mottled sculpin. The redband trout is the most common sport species found in the system. The presence of these species is indicative of good stream habitat, small to moderate stream size, and good water quality.

The recreational values associated with the native fisheries is extremely high. One section of the Wild and Scenic River System has been designated "catch and release" to maintain quality angling and a healthy population of native fish. This section is Segment B from the headwaters to the confluence with Segment C.

The quality and importance of the native fisheries habitat results in an outstandingly remarkable value.

Wildlife

The Donner und Blitzen River drainage is highly valued for its abundant wildlife. The river area and adjacent uplands are used by 250 (estimated) wildlife species. Currently, no known Native American cultural use of wildlife is identified in this river corridor. Mule deer winter along the lower 4 miles of the Blitzen River and the lower 4 miles of Fish Creek. Deer summer in the upper parts of the area. The ridge between Big Indian and Little Indian Canyons provides habitat for a high number of large bucks during the summer months. Rocky Mountain elk occasionally use the lower elevations of the drainages during the summer. Pronghorn antelope use the open terrain adjacent to the corridor in certain areas.

Raptors nest along the canyon rims of the Blitzen River and its tributaries. Common species are American kestrel and great horned owls. Turkey vultures and ravens also nest in these cliffs. One prairie falcon aerie has been located along the Little Blitzen River Gorge. Chukars and valley quail are found along the river at the lower elevations, while sage grouse summer in the upper areas of the river in flatter terrain.

The summer inventories of 1991 determined the diversity of habitats. Studies were done on aquatic habitat, riparian conditions, sensitive plant species, and unique plant and habitat communities.

As a result of these inventories, the wildlife species associated with the river system will be managed as an outstandingly remarkable value.

Vegetation

The Donner und Blitzen River contains a diversity of plant communities. Currently, no known Native American cultural use of vegetation is identified in the river corridor.

Vegetation includes riparian zones dominated by willows, western birch, mountain alder, black cottonwood, and quaking aspen as well as other species. Also, sedge and grass-dominated meadows, bog areas, springs, seeps, a variety of wetland communities, high elevation cirque communities, and numerous other alpine and subalpine communities are found within this system. The uplands include areas dominated by big sagebrush, western juniper, mountain mahogany, quaking aspen, and mountain snowberry with Idaho fescue, bluebunch

wheatgrass, needlegrasses, and numerous other species in the understory.

There are 22 sensitive plant species which have been documented within the river corridor as well as others whose presence is suspected. These include species which are endemic to Steens Mountain, species which occur in Oregon only on the Steens, and other species of special interest. Sensitive species occur in all segments of the river except for Segment A.

A botanical inventory was conducted in the summer of 199 I which obtained a thorough inventory of the river corridor for sensitive plant species, unique natural areas, and created a general species list for the river segments.

As a result of these inventories, the variety of vegetation communities, and the large number of sensitive species present, the vegetation associated with the river system will be managed as an outstandingly remarkable value.

Cultural *(Traditional Practices/ Prehistoric Sites)*

The river corridor was used by Native Americans, including the Northern Paiute and their predecessors. The area was used for hunting, fishing, and gathering of plants for food and other uses such as transportation corridors along ridges and water courses.

Currently, no known Native American traditional practices are identified.

Thirty-five river miles have been inventoried, including high priority areas with concentrated recreation use within each river segment. The entire 74 miles will be inventoried as part of the recreation and cultural programs. There are portions of the river system where prehistoric sites are known to be present. This includes the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Register Historic District which was inventoried during the fall of 1992. Conditions for moderate to high prehistoric site potential exist throughout the corridor. Locations of importance to Native Americans for traditional practices and other purposes may be identified in consultation with the appropriate tribe(s).

Through inventory data, evaluations of potential site use and ongoing consultation with the Bums Paiute Tribe, the values associated with prehistoric sites and traditional practices will be managed as significant resources, although outstandingly remarkable values are not known to be present.

Cultural *(Historic Sites)*

Cultural resource inventories (see previous section) and existing data indicate that. historic sites and resources on Steens Mountain, including the river corridor, reflect the turn-of-the-century period of settlement, homesteading, and subsequent livestock raising endeavors. Old cabins and tree carvings located along river segments are considered to have important resource values and may be managed for public uses as appropriate.

The Riddle Brothers Ranch. located along the Little Blitzen River, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This district covers 1, 120 acres of public land located along the Little Blitzen River (Segment B) of which approximately 850 acres lies within the designated river corridor. The site is still a working ranch under a title transfer agreement with Clemens Ranches. Inc.

Three complexes of structures are included within the historic district. Structures at the main complex include a house, root cellar, bunkhouse, chicken house, storage building, tack room, barn, and corrals built of willows and juniper. Another complex includes a house, root cellar, and stone storage building. while the smallest complex has a log house and split rail fences.

A cultural resource management plan is being implemented that provides guidance on how to manage this historic district in conjunction with the

Wild and Scenic River. The plan assesses the need for general structure maintenance, restoration, and rehabilitation. It also addresses public uses which are compatible with the historic character of the ranch and the requirements of a wild river environment.

These cultural resource qualities are important to the overall character of the river and will be managed as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District.

OTHER MANAGEMENT 'DESIGNATIONS

There are portions of four Wilderness Study Areas within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor. These include the High Steens Wilderness Study Area (2-85-F), Little Blitzen River Gorge Wilderness Study Area (2-86-F), Blitzen River Wilderness Study Area (2-86-E), and South Fork Donner und Blitzen River Wilderness Study Area (2-85-G). Within the designated river, there are three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (two of which are Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern): The Rooster Comb Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern, The Little Blitzen Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and The Steens Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The South Steens Herd Management Area includes over 250,000 acres adjacent to portions of the Blitzen River. The Herd Management Plan calls for a minimum number of 159 horses and a maximum number of 304 animals.

The special management areas located within the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River enhance the area's uniqueness through these existing programs managed by the Bureau of Land Management. These values are important to the character of the river. The Rooster Comb and Little Blitzen Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern have been established for the protection of botanical values. The Steens Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern has been set aside to protect the visual resources. Wild horses are managed under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

The Riddle Brothers Ranch National Register Historic District is located predominantly within the river corridor (see previous section). The historic resources within the ranch will be managed to provide for public use as long as the resources are protected and maintained.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Wild and Scenic River Management Plan establishes a comprehensive set of actions to provide the Donner und Blitzen River with a level of resource protection and management for a wild river environment, consistent with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The River Management Plan, when completed, will meet the requirements of the National Environmental Quality Act and the Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

An interdisciplinary-team approach, with an overall team leader, has been used in the development of the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Staff specialists from the following disciplines are included: Recreation, Wildlife, Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Geology, Botany, Range, and Wild Horses.

An ad hoc, or Citizens Advisory Group, has also been formed for the development of the manage-

ment plan. This volunteer group consisted of the following individuals, which represent different segments of the public as well as other agencies:

Gary Ivy	Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Wayne Bowers	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rick Miller	Oregon Trout
Kate Joost	Oregon Rivers Council
Ken Thompson	Livestock Indusny
Dick Vander Schaaf	The Nature Conservancy
Dan Sanders	Private Lands, Range Permittee
Mark Smith	SOILS (Save our Industries and Lands)

METHOD OF PLAN PREPARATION

The management plan development has ken molded after 2 years of consultation between the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Oregon State Parks,

An interagency agreement was signed between the three agencies to format and outline the management plan development. All designated rivers under the Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 will follow the outlines established as a result of the interagencies' agreement. This included interim boundary designation, development of the resource assessment (which serves as a foundation of the river management plan), and development of the river management plan itself.

RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AND STATE PLANS

Portions of the Donner und Blitzen River are identified throughout the Andrews Land Use Plan of 1982 and the Steens Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan of 1985 as having specific management actions to be initiated within the Plan. These actions include enhancement of wildlife. fisheries, riparian habitat, botanical, wilderness, cultural. and recreational values.

The Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River is not designated as a State Scenic Waterway. Its Federal designation is consistent with the Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Harney County Land-Use Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To date, public outreach or involvement for the development of the management plan has included the following:

April 8, 1989	Interim boundaries designated for the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River
April 20, 1989	Open house meeting to collect input on the interim boundary
September l I. 1990	Draft resource assessment sent to interested publics
December 1990	Advisory Group established to help in the development of the plan
January 9, 199 1	First meeting with Advisory Group
Marc h 14, 199 1	Second meeting with Advisot-y Group
May 13-14, 1991	Field trip with Advisory Group to Donner und Blitzen River

September 10-11, 1991	Field trip with Advisory Group to Donner und Blitzen River
October 29, 1991	Final resource assessment sent to interested publics
June 5, 1992	Draft River Management Plan/Environmental Assessment mailed to the public
July 10, 1992	Comments on Draft River Management Plan due
August 28, 1992	Advisory Group meeting

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

The Donner und Blitzen River will be managed to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values. Visitor and resource management will be allowed as long as protection and enhancement of the resources is the first priority. This is the intent for which Congress designated the river as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The following objectives will guide future management and use of the designated corridor of the Blitzen River and its tributaries. In accomplishing these objectives, the Bureau of Land Management will involve and cooperate with other public agencies, private interests, and resource users:

1. Protect and/or enhance the outstandingly remarkable values.

2. Provide for safe, healthy, and lawful use of the river resources.

3. Provide for a variety of recreational resources/experiences along with other compatible resource management opportunities as long as they do not have an impact on the outstandingly remarkable values.

4. Provide for adequate facilities, access, and information/educational opportunities outside the river corridor.

Considerations which, because of laws, regulations, landownership, policy, or other planning commitments, influence the development of management actions are:

1. Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan

2. Private landownership within the river corridor

3. Grazing permits within allotments on public land

3. Existing Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern within the river corridor

5. Steens Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan

6. Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District Cultural Resource Management Plan

7. Steens Mountain Recreation Area Interpretive Prospectus

8. Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act - 1971

9. Interim Management Policy Guidelines for Land Under Wilderness Review

ISSUES

This section identifies issues which will guide the management plan and provide for the protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values.

These actions were developed through input from the public and working with the Citizens Advisory Group.

Issue 1 - Resource Protection

The Donner und Blitzen River has resource values of national significance. Different resource opportunities can be utilized as long as they do not adversely affect the outstandingly remarkable values which have been set forth by Congress as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Considerations:

1. Recreation Management
2. Grazing Management - Livestock
3. Wild Norse Management
4. Riparian Management
5 Fish and Wildlife Management
6. Water Quality/Water Quantity Management
7. Cul tural Resource Management

Issue 2 - Recreation Development/Visitor Management

Recreational use within the river corridor and surrounding area has increased substantially over the past 10 years. The Donner und Blitzen River is within the Steens Mountain Recreation Lands.

Visitors are drawn to the area because of the combination of high scenic values and a rugged back country which offers a primitive experience,

Sanitation, litter, impacts to unique natural areas. sensitive plants, and animals are a growing concern within the river corridor.

Considerations:

1. Recreation facility development
2. Road maintenance
3. Off-highway vehicle use/Road closures
3. Trails
5. Public outreach (information/education)
6. Search and rescue
7. Law enforcement

Issue 3 - Landownership

Although the majority of the river corridor is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (19,3 13 acres), there are 3,3 12 acres of private land owned by five different landowners. The Stats of Oregon has 40 acres within the corridor. The river corridor cannot be effectively managed by the Bureau alone. Cooperation to manage the river as a whole between all affected interests is the key to successful management.

Considerations:

1. Private landowners
2. Management cooperation between agencies and affected parties
3. Land exchanges/purchases/easements
4. Administrative boundaries

Issue 4 - Other Management Considerations

There are other resource management considerations which have a definite affect on the Donnet und Blitzen River, Some occurrences, such as the spread of juniper, are impacting the uplands thus affecting the watershed of the river. Decisions which have been implemented through existing land-use plans which include special designations such as Wilderness Study Areas, Resource Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Herd Management Areas will influence the river management plan.

Considerations:

1. Juniper encroachment
2 Fire management
3. Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
4. Wilderness Study Areas

CHAPTER 2
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

RIVER SEGMENTS

As a result of recalculating the river miles and acres within the corridor, using the Moss Geographical Information System, these figures are different than what is described in the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers.

There is a new total of 73.8 river miles encompassing 22,625 acres.

ACCESS

Access to the Donner und Blitzen River area is via Highway 205. south of Burns, and the Steens Mountain Loop Road. Since the completion of the Loop Road in 1962, this has been the primary access to the recreation lands and the river corridor. Primitive access roads leading directly to the river are limited and very difficult to drive.

The following is the breakdown of roads by river segment:

Segment A	0.5 mile of Page Springs Campground Road. 1.2 miles of primitive road.
Segment B	2.1 miles of primitive road.
Segment C	0.8 mile of the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road. 2.75 miles of the Huffman Camp Road. 0.25 mile of primitive road to Bill Taber Cabin.
Segment D	5.9 miles of primitive road.
Segment E	No roads.
Segment F	1 .O mile of primitive road. 0.75 mile of the northern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road.

LANDOWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

LANDOWNERSHIP

Ownership of the river and river corridor is divided among Federal, State, and private holdings. Of the 22,625 acres, 19,273 acres are Federal land, 40 acres are State land, and 3,312 acres are private lands.

		River Miles	Acreages
Segment A	Bureau of Land Management	14.2	2,530
	Private	—	—
	State	—	—
Segment B	Bureau of Land Management	13.8	6,196
	Private	—	—
	State	—	—
Segment C	Bureau of Land Management	12.6	2,769
	Private	3.8	730
	State	—	—
Segment D	Bureau of Land Management	11.9	5,178
	Private	—	—
	State	—	—
Segment E	Bureau of Land Management	4.1	1,363
	Private	—	—
	State	—	—
Segment F	Bureau of Land Management	6.4	1,237
	Private	8.0	2,582
	State	—	40

Corridor acreage is based on an average of 320 acres per river mile.

DEVELOPMENT

Various levels of development occur within the river corridor or adjacent to the river segments. Roads were discussed in the previous section.

Segment A

Page Springs Campground is a 20-acre Bureau of Land Management recreation site which receives approximately 30,000 visitors per year. The campground is located adjacent to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge along the Donner und Blitzen River.

The remains of a small dam are located 1 mile upriver from the Page Springs Campground. The dam and gauging station were built by the U.S. Geological Survey. The gauging station has been in use since the early 1900's and is still in operation. Due to years of high water and lack of maintenance, the dam is in poor condition.

Segment B

The historic Riddle Brothers Ranch complex is described on page 5 under historic sites. There is also a modem cabin associated with this ranch. The lands and buildings were acquired by the Bureau through land exchanges and purchases. These transactions brought 7,5 18 acres into public ownership although private use is authorized by a lifetime title covenant.

The Kueny homestead is located in the Little Blitzen River Gorge. All that remains are the foundations of two cabins and the old corrals.

Segment C

The Huffman Camp is located on private property. The cabin, outbuildings, and corrals are still standing and used by the landowner.

The Bill Taber cabin is located on private property. The cabin remains standing and is unoccupied.

A one-lane cement bridge, located along the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road at Blitzen crossing, spans the Donner und Blitzen River.

Segment D

There is an old cabin in poor condition located in the Big Indian Canyon. The remains of an old homestead, called Newton Cabin, are located along the lower portion of Indian Creek. These sites are located on public lands.

Segment E

Remains of an old homestead are located in the Little Indian Canyon. The condition of the cabin is poor and located on public lands.

Segment F

Jackman Park Campground is a 10-acre Bureau of Land Management recreation site which receives approximately 4,000 visitors per year. The campground is located east of Fish Lake along the northern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road.

The John Scharff cabin is located on his private property in the upper headwaters of Fish Creek. This is a modern cabin used during the summer months.

LANDSCAPECHARACTER

Steens Mountain, a 30-mile long fault-block mountain, is located in the high desert country of southeast Oregon. It is the northern-most fault-block mountain within the Basin and Range Province. Some 15 million years ago, pressure under the earth's surface thrust the block upward. along a fault, while what is now the Alvord Basin slid down. The tilting of the block resulted in a steep eastern face and a more gentle slope on the western side. The mountain is also faulted along its west

face where it uplifted to form the Catlow rim. The Steens Mountain reaches an elevation of 9,773 feet, 1 mile above the Alvord Desert.

Steens Mountain is also unique because it is a true fault-block mountain, being uplifted on both the east and west sides. It is also the largest fault-block mountain in the State of Oregon.

The Donner und Blitzen River offers a diversity of landscapes that contain visual qualities that result in outstanding scenic values. Glaciers formed in the pre-ice age creek beds of the Little Blitzen, Big Indian, and Little Indian Canyons. The glaciers carved and gouged to a depth of 2,500 feet.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Stems Mountain recreation area is semi-arid with mild summers and cold winters. Most of the precipitation falls as snow in the winter months. During the spring and summer, runoff from the Steens Mountain provides water to the surrounding countryside, particularly to the north, by way of the Donner und Blitzen River.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the river corridor is extremely diverse. The descriptions of each segment's vegetation are based on the results of the 1991 inventories conducted by The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. Additional vegetation information can be found in Appendix F of the Draft River Management Plan.

Segment A

Along the mainstem Donner und Blitzen River, the canyon side slopes are dominated by western juniper and big sagebrush with Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass in the understory. Canyon shrubs such as oceanspray, golden currant, and antelope bitterbrush are scattered throughout this section.

The riparian area near Page Springs contains an extensive, spring-fed marshy meadow dominated by native sedges including wooly sedge, Nebraska sedge, and beaked sedge. Tree and shrub species present include black cottonwood, coyote willow, and other willows.

Upstream from Page Springs, the river canyon is quite narrow and steep, and the riparian vegetation is limited. Mountain alder, redosier dogwood, and chokecherry are the primary shrubs with Pacific willow and coyote willow occurring in some areas. Basin wildrye appears on some river terraces.

Along the mainstem Donner und Blitzen, the Page Springs meadow area (a good representative of a low elevation riparian community) was assessed as having significant natural values. Sensitive plant species were not found in this river segment.

Segment B

From the Riddle Brothers Ranch downstream to the confluence of the Donner und Blitzen River, the riparian zone is dominated by black cottonwood, tree willow, and mountain alder with an understory of Kentucky bluegrass and cheatgrass. The uplands are dominated by western juniper and big sagebrush with Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass in the understory.

At the Riddle Brothers Ranch, upstream to the mouth of the Little Blitzen River Gorge, the meadows are the most extensive bottomlands in the Donner und Blitzen River basin. These meadows have been altered by irrigating with a series of ditches, and are dominated by timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, and redtop with some areas of Cusick bluegrass, tufted hairgrass, blue camas, and sedges. The riparian zone adjacent to the meadows is a mountain-alder/western birch/Pacific-willow/rigid-willow community complex. Native American traditional practices may include the blue camas present here.

East of the meadows is a riparian area dominated by black cottonwood, willows, and chokecherry with an understory of Sheldon sedge. Together, the

meadows and the black cottonwood community represent an entire low elevation riparian complex, which formerly was much more common throughout the not-them Great Basin,

Within Little Blitzen River Gorge, the north-facing side slopes are dominated by western juniper, tnountain mahogany, and quaking aspen. The south-facing slopes are dominated by shrubs including big sagebrush, currant, and chokecherry with scattered western juniper. Understory species include Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and forbs.

The riparian zone is dominated by black cottonwood, willows, quaking aspen, redosier dogwood. chokecherry, and mountain alder with sedges. Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, timothy, and needlegrass in the understory. The willows become the low growing, prostrate species characteristic of higher elevations. The cirques at the headwaters are dominated by shrubby cinquefoil, sheep fescue, alpine timothy, and sedge,

Sensitive plant species found in the central portion of Li ttle Blitzen River Gorge include Davidson penstemon, weakstem stonecrop. nodding melic, Cusick draba, and Hayden cymopterus. Near the headwaters, little grapefern and Copeland owlclover are found along the river. Other species found in the Little Blitzen Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern include gray moonwort, Steens Mountain paintbrush, wedgeleaf saxifrage, moss gentian, and oneflowered goldenweed.

Areas in this segment assessed as having significant unique natural values include the Rooster Comb Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern. the Little Blitzen Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern. and the riparian/meadow complex at Riddle Brothers Ranch.

Segment C

With the exception of the springs and meadows in the headwaters basin. the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River flows through a fairly narrow canyon. The side slopes are dominated by big sagebrush. western juniper, and Idaho fescue. The riparian zone in this segment is largely dominated by mountain alder, willows, chokecherry, and gooseberries. Sedges, timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, meadow barley. and cheatgrass are common understory species.

Nearer the headwaters, the corridor becotnes a broad basin. The tiparian vegetation changes as tnountain aider declines and willows, such as Pacific willow, Geyer willow, and Booth willow, become dominant.

There are several stretches of stream in the segment which have unique natural area values. The river canyon between Blitzen Crossing and Mud Creek contains an excellent example of canyon tiparian vegetation. Mountain alder dominates, but there is a diverse array of native shrubs. The understory is dominated by native grasses. Scapose catchfly and back sedge are sensitive plant species which occur in this stream segment,

Further upstream, near the headwaters, are two more areas of significance. The first is the small stream and meadow near Huffman Camp which contains a low elevation aspen stand, a riparian area dominated by low-growing willows, and a large tneadow dominated by native species such as tneadow barley, mannagrass, tufted hairgrass, Nebraska sedge, wooly sedge, and rushes. Drier areas have Nevada bluegrass, prairie junegrass, and slender wheatgrass. This area also has sotne low elevation aspen stands. and the uplands here are in excellent condition. This site is privately owned. At the headwaters, the springs and meadows are in fait condition; but they are important because they represent a mix of low and high elevation springs/ meadow complex.

Segment D

Along Indian Creek, from the Donner und Blitzen River to the confluence of Big and Little Indian Creeks, the vegetation is similar to other low-

elevation areas. There is a narrow band of riparian area dominated by mountain alder and black cottonwood with some willows and redosier dogwood. The uplands contain western juniper, mountain mahogany, and big sagebrush with Idaho fescue in the understory.

Near the bend in Big Indian Gorge, extensive mountain mahogany communities occur on both the north and south-facing slopes. In these communities, mountain mahogany has a variety of understory and associated species including mountain snowberry, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and blue wildrye. In some places, quaking aspen and western juniper are also community components.

In Big Indian Gorge, quaking aspen is common in the riparian zone. Small linear springs dominated by rushes and sedges occur adjacent to the stream. As the riparian bottom becomes wider, it is dominated by willows, quaking aspen, and black cottonwood with fewer understory shrub species. There are also areas of floodplain meadows with sedges, clover, and cinquefoils. The uplands are dominated by mountain big sagebrush with a variety of needlegrasses and Idaho fescue in the understory.

Near the headwaters, Big Indian Creek passes through a very narrow canyon where the riparian zone is dominated by willows. At the headwaters, linear springs run parallel to the slope. These springs are dominated by sedges and many forb species. Gray moonwort, Copeland owlclover, and slender gentian are sensitive plant species found in this area. The uplands are dominated by mountain mahogany, mountain snowberry, and mountain big sagebrush with an understory of Thurber needlegrass.

The cirques at the head of the gorge contain alpine ponds and moist areas with Bolander quillwort (a sensitive plant species), mountain sedge, tufted hairgrass, and rushes being common species. The drier uplands contain sheep fescue, alpine timothy, and golden sedge among many other plant species.

The cirque on the upper north rim of Big Indian Gorge contains many sensitive plant species including grapeferns, gray moonwort, new sedge, weakstem stonecrop, sierra spring-beauty, Davidson penstemon, alpine lily, and oneflowered goldenweed. In the headwall area, moss gentian, wedge-leaf saxifrage, Steens Mountain paintbrush, Cusick draba, and Hayden cymopterus occur.

Within Big Indian Gorge, unique natural areas of particular interest include the mahogany stands near the bend in the gorge and the headwater meadows and upper cirque, both of which have numerous sensitive plant species and unique vernal ponds.

Segment E

Little Indian Creek has some of the most diverse riparian area in the river corridor. From its confluence with Big Indian Creek for about 2 miles upstream, the narrow canyon riparian habitat has mountain alder, western birch, and black cottonwood as the dominant species. Understory shrubs include chokecherry, redosier dogwood, serviceberry, and black hawthorn. There are also some unique species such as ladyfern, swordfern, and creambush oceanspray which are much more common west of the Cascade Mountains.

Where the canyon begins to widen, the riparian zone is dominated by willows and contains numerous wet areas created by a combination of large perennial springs and beaver ponds. These areas are dominated by Nevada rush, wooly sedge, and mountain sedge and are in good ecological condition. Other common species include monkshood, groundsel, and false-hellebore. Grapeferns were also found in these wetlands. The north slopes contain large stands of quaking aspen which intergrade with these willow/riparian areas and contain blue wildrye, horsemint, and bearded wheatgrass in the understory.

On the uplands, mountain big sagebrush dominates the side slopes with threadleaf sedge, horsemint, paintbrush, and needlegrasses in the understory. Mountain snowberry is often codominant. Higher

up in the upper canyon on the south-facing slopes, service berry, oceanspray, chokecherry, and mountain mahogany are a part of this mountain big sagebrush community as well as numerous forb and grass species. These slopes are a high quality example of this community type.

The headwaters and cirques contain many diverse and unusual alpine and subalpine communities, Often they are dominated by Nevada rush, Jones sedge, and tealeaf willow. Mountain sedge. beaked sedge, and many other species are also present. The north-facing slopes in this area contain large stands of quaking aspen. Grapeferns were found along the creek and Steens Mountain paintbrush was found in the upper headwaters.

Within Little Indian Creek, vegetation communities assessed as having significant unique natural values include the lower riparian area, the beaver ponds, the south-facing canyon side slopes, and the headwaters area containing alpine, subalpine, and aspen communities.

Segment F

Much of Fish Creek flows through a narrow, steep-walled canyon and the plant communities reflect this environment. From its confluence with the Donner und Blitzen River upstream to Corral Creek, the south-facing slopes are dominated by western juniper and big sagebrush. On the north-facing slopes, western juniper is dominant at lower elevations but is replaced by mountain mahogany and quaking aspen as the elevation in the canyon increases. In this stretch, the riparian zone is very narrow with willows and redosier dogwood being the common dominants and black cottonwood occurring occasionally. Understory species include bluegrasses, needlegrasses, and sedges. Rack sedge. 8 sensitive plant species, occurs in this stretch,

From Corral Creek to above Little Fish Creek, the stream gradient is high and the riparian zone remains very narrow. However, the canyon side slopes are not as steep here as they are in the lower elevation stretches. Black cottonwood, willows, and redosier dogwood dominate the riparian zone, The south-facing uplands are dominated by western juniper with mountain mahogany, mountain big sagebrush, basin wildrye, and bluebunch wheatgrass. North-facing slopes are dominated by quaking aspen with mountain big sagebrush, mountain snowberry, and Idaho fescue in the understory. This portion of Fish Creek. from Corral Creek to the headwaters, is primarily privately owned.

About 2 miles above the confluence with Little Fish Creek, Fish Creek Canyon widens out into a basin containing large meadows and a number of beaver ponds. The series of beaver darns cover approximately 0.5 mile of stream within this section. These meadows and wetlands are dominated by bluegrasses, sedges, and a large number of forbs. The riparian habitat in this area is entirely dominated by willows. Quaking aspen forms extensive stands on the north-facing slopes. South-facing slopes are dominated by mountain snowberry, mountain big sagebrush, and serv iceberry with mountain brome, Columbia needlegrass, and shrubby buckwheat in the understory. Short sections of Fish Creek are intermittent.

At the headwaters of Fish Creek are meadows which are dominated by tufted hairgrass, alpine timothy, rushes, and sedges. Low-g-owing wi llows also occur in places. The uplands and drier areas are dominated by needlegrasses, oniongrasses, and others.

Numerous sensitive plant species occur in the upper Fish Creek drainage. These include Cusick horsemint, least rush, nodding melic, Drummond willow grapeferns, gray moonwort, sierra onion, slimleaf onion, and Davidson pcnstemon.

Along Fish Creek, areas with unique natural values include the meadows and extensive aspen forests above Little Fish Creek and the meadows at the headwaters.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT - LIVESTOCK

There are five grazing allotments within or adjacent to the Blitzen River and its tributaries. The allotments are Frazier Field, Hardie Summer, Otley Brothers, Fish Creek-Big Indian, and South Steens.

Allotment	Season of Use	Acres Public	Acres Private	Animal Unit Months	Current Management	Allotment Management Plan
Frazier Field	04/01 - 10/31	28,754	1,173	2,115	Rest-rotation	Yes
Hardie Summer	07/01 - 09/30	1,232	10,340	413	Deferred	Yes
Otley Brothers	04/16 - 10/31	27,618	30,588	3,654	Continuous seasonal High intensity Short duration	Yes
Big Indian	04/16 - 09/30	16,650	14,479	1,410	Fish Creek/ Continuous seasonal	1994
South Steens	04/16 - 10/31	230,771	158,285	21,197	Continuous seasonal	1993

Portions of the Blitzen River and its tributaries are within the South Steens Wild Horse Herd Management Area which is composed of 252,000 acres of public lands with an estimate of 298 horses within the area.

Segment A

From Page Springs Campground to Big Springs, on both sides of the river, livestock and wild horses are excluded from the river riparian zone by fencing and topography (approximately 6.5 miles). This portion of Segment A is within the Frazier Field Allotment, which is on both sides of the river to the confluence of the Donner und Blitzen River with Fish Creek. On the east side of the river, for the remainder of this portion of Segment A, is the Big Springs Pasture of Fish Creek-Big Indian. On the west side of the river is the Frazier Field Allotment. The only livestock use within Segment A is along the canyon rim.

From the Big Springs area south to approximately Tombstone Canyon, cattle and wild-horse access is restricted by topography; and, therefore, there is no use within the riparian zone. Again, the only use within the corridor by cattle and wild horses is in the uplands along the rim of the canyon (approxi-

mately 5.5 miles). This portion of Segment A is within the Big Springs and Dry Creek Pastures of Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. On the west side of the river is the Steens Pasture of South Steens Allotment.

The southern portion (0.75 mile) of this segment of the river has limited access to livestock and wild horses again due to topography. In this area, there are a few trails on both sides of the river where animals can gain access but utilization in the corridor is light.

On the east side of the river is the Big Springs and Dry Creek Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. This pasture is presently grazed by 255 cattle from May 15 to June 15. Timing of use may vary by as much as 2 weeks from year to year. Livestock use from this pasture is along the canyon rim in the uplands. Utilization is light within the river boundary.

On the west side of the river is part of the South Steens Allotment (Steens Pasture). This pasture contains 142,728 acres of public lands with approximately 50,000 acres of private lands, There are no fences or topographic barriers to control cattle ot wild-horse distribution within this pasture.

Wild-horse use is scattered throughout the pasture with some horses staying year-around in established areas. Others move to the higher elevation in Fhe pasture as forage cures.

Cattle use in this pasture is seasonal. The cattle are distributed in the lower elevations and move to higher elevations as forage cures. In the portion of Steens pasture that contains Segment A, livestock use averages approximately 1,100 cattle from May 1 to July I. Utilization within the river boundary is light.

Segment B

From the headwaters of the Little Blitzen River to the mouth of the gorge (approximately 7 miles), livestock and wild-horse use is excluded by fencing.

From the mouth of the gorge west approximately 1 mile, the river is within the Little Blitzen Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. This pasture is grazed with 255 cattle 2 weeks during June, Monitoring studies indicate moderate utilization levels within this pasture.

From the Little Blitzen Pasture west boundary fence. the river is within the Little Blitzen Meadows Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment for approximately 3.5 miles. During the month of October, after the cattle are brought off the mountain, the meadows are grazed by 485 cattle. Monitor& studies indicate heavy utilization levels within this pasture, West of the Riddle Brothers Ranch to the confluence with the Blitzen River, livestock use is excluded by fencing (completed the summer of 199 1) and topography on the north for approximately 2.5 miles. There is no wild-horse use along this portion of the Little Blitzen River.

Segment C

From the confluence of the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River with the Little Blitzen River, upstream for approximately 3.5 miles, cattle graze the Newton Cabin Pasture, which is in the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment, and have access from the east. Cattle and wild horses from the Steens Pasture. which is in the South Steens Allotment, have access from the west.

Currently, the Newton Cabin Pasture is grazed by 255 cattle for the month of July. The pasture is large (8,563 acres) with rough topography and heavy juniper cover. There is some wild-horse use in this pasture.

Monitoring studios indicate heavy to severe utilization along this 3.5-mile stretch. The adjacent uplands in both allotments show light utilization.

The remainder of this segment on both sides of the river is within the Steens Pasture of the South S teens Allotment, In this portion of the river are meadows of the headwaters and larger riparian zones with gentle slopes. Cattle and wild horses

concentrate in the meadows along the river as well as the meadows of the tributaries to this segment. Cattle numbers vary from year to year, and timing of use can vary by 2 to 3 weeks. This pasture averages 3,600 cattle. A portion of these animals have access to the river in early June. Most of the cattle summer east of the river from July 1 through September. Often stragglers remain into October. Through the summer and early fall, the cattle are distributed throughout the Mud Creek-Ankle Creek basin and Deep Creek along the riparian zone. Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization levels in this segment of the river corridor and tributaries. The uplands have slight to light utilization levels.

Monitoring studies estimate that 40-50 wild horses graze this portion of the pasture during the growing season and fall. These animals also graze in the riparian zones during this period.

Segment D

From the headwaters of Indian Creek to the mouth of Big Indian Gorge (approximately 6 miles), livestock and wild-horse use has been excluded by fencing the mouth of the gorge. The remaining 5.5 miles of this segment is within the Newton Cabin Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. The pasture is grazed as described under Segment C. Cattle have free access to Indian Creek while in the pasture. Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization levels in this section. Upland utilization levels are light to moderate. Some wild horses graze this portion of Indian Creek. Monitoring studies indicate that in 1990 approximately 20 horses had access to this section of Indian Creek.

Segment E

This is the 4.0-mile segment of Little Indian Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with Big Indian Creek. This segment has access by cattle from the Steens Pasture of South Steens Allotment and from the west by cattle from the Newton Cabin Pasture of Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. Due to topography, very few cattle from either of these allotments access the drainage. Utilization data from monitoring studies is unavailable for this drainage. However, from observations by staff, utilization levels are slight to light in this segment. Wild horses could access the drainage from the south, but there is no observation of wild-horse use in this drainage.

Segment F

The majority of the upper 8 miles of Fish Creek is in private ownership, most of which is unfenced from the public land. Access by cattle to the upper reaches of the creek is available from the south through the Cold Springs Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. This pasture is grazed by 480 cattle from mid-July to mid-September. Stragglers graze the area into October.

From the north and east, cattle from the Mountain Top Pasture of Otley Brothers Allotment also have access to the drainage. The Mountain Top Pasture has 500 cattle grazing from July 1 to September 15.

Much of the private land in Fish Creek is leased for sheep grazing. Through an exchange-of-use agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, the sheep graze currently the private and public lands below the headwaters of Fish Creek in the Cold Springs Pasture. From June 15 to September 1, there are 1,000 sheep which graze this area. They are not to graze the private and public lands in the headwaters of Fish Creek.

There is no wild-horse use in this segment. Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization in the riparian area along this portion of the creek.

The lower 6 miles of Fish Creek have two grazing allotments on the north. Approximately 2 of the 6 miles is in the Hardie Summer Allotment. Most of this portion of the drainage is privately owned. The Hardie Summer Allotment is on a deferred grazing system with use by 450 cattle from July 1 to October 30. The remaining access from the north to the creek is within the Frazier Field Allotment which is grazed on a four-pasture, rest-rotation system with 400 cattle from April 1 to November 30. Topogra-

phy and fencing keep Livestock out of the river bottom.

On the south, access is available from the Cold Springs and Upper Dry Creek Pastures of Fish Creek-Wig Indian Allotment. Four hundred cattle graze these pastures from June 1 to September 15.

No monitoring information on utilization is available for this 6-mile stretch. However, rhe lower 3 miles, to the confluence with the Donner und Blitzen River, is steep walled and narrow with no livestock or wild-horse use on this portion of the creek.

WILD HORSES

Segment A

The only wild-horse use within this segment is adjacent to the canyon rims, Upland type vegetation is being grazed by these animals.

Segment B

Due to topography and fencing, there is no wild-horse use within Segment B.

Segment C

From the confluence of the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River with the Little Blitzen River, upstream for 3.5 miles, there is access to the river in several areas by horses. Use by horses within this area is considered light.

The Newton Cabin Pasture has rugged topography with heavy juniper. Horse use is considered light within this 8,563-acre pasture.

The remaining portion of Segment C on both sides of the river is within the Steens Pasture of the South Steens Allotment. Monitoring studies estimate that in a normal year 40-50 horses use this portion of the pasture during the growing and fall seasons. Small bands of horses concentrate in the riparian zone during this period.

Riparian monitoring in Segment C found that even without the presence of cattle during the summer of 1 992, wild-horse use was impacting riparian vegetation along portions of the south fork, It is estimated that 197 head of horses are within or adjacent to Segment C. It is also noted that this area has been in drought for 7 years with last fall having the only live water within the area.

Segment D

From the headwaters of Indian Creek to the mouth of Big Indian Gorge (approximately 6 miles) wild-horse use is excluded by topography and fencing.

The remaining 5.5 miles of Indian Creek has wild-horse use within the area. Monitoring studies indicate that in 1990, approximately 20 horses used this portion of Indian Creek with slight impacts to the riparian areas.

Segment E

There is no evidence of wild-horse use in the Little Indian Canyon, but it is possible for horses to access this area from the south.

Segment F

Due to topography and fencing, there is no wild-horse use within this segment.

WILDLIFE

The Wild and Scenic River corridor contains a wide diversity of wildlife habitat with over 250 species of amphibians, reptiles. birds, and mammals found in the area. The Donner und Blitzen River is adjacent to the extensive wetlands found on the nearby Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Species in the area that are listed as Endangered or Threatened include the bald eagle (Federal and State

Threatened) and American peregrine falcon (Federal and State Endangered).

Other species that are being considered for Threatened or Endangered Species status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are species that are considered rare and found in Appendix B.

Game birds include chukar, valley quail, mourning dove, sage grouse, common snipe, and waterfowl. Pheasants occur near the Page Springs Campground within a small area. Nesting raptors are golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, long-eared owl, American kestrel, northern harrier, red-tailed hawk, and ferruginous hawk. Northern goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and Cooper's hawk are species that also nest in the area but are uncommon. Turkey vultures and ravens nest in cliffs along the deep canyons. American peregrine falcons are rarely observed as migrants.

Game mammals include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, California bighorn sheep (listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Candidate 2 species), and cougar. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife believes at least 30 miles of Segments A, B, D, and E are potential summer and winter bighorn sheep range.

Nongame mammals include golden-mantle ground squirrel, canyon mouse, deer mouse, harvest mouse, several species of bats, coyotes, bobcat, and many other species. Beaver are found in all stream segments.

Amphibians and reptiles include spotted frog, western rattlesnake, gopher snake, sagebrush lizard, western fence lizard, and others.

A 1991 inventory of 63 miles of riparian habitat on public lands in the river corridor found 8.1 miles (12.9 percent) in poor condition, 17.7 miles (28.1 percent) in fair condition, 25.1 miles (39.8 percent) in good condition, and 11.0 miles (17.5 percent) in excellent condition. One and one-tenths mile (1.7 percent) was not inventoried (See the table on page 24).

There were 555 acres of riparian habitat within the river. There are over 35 river miles of riparian habitat in good or excellent condition. Part of this habitat is in rugged, rocky country where livestock never graze.

Poor and fair condition habitat has been strongly influenced by historic livestock grazing that reduced woody riparian species. For example, the lower Donner und Blitzen River from Fish Creek downstream to Page Springs was heavily grazed by livestock until 1981 when this part was fenced to remove livestock. This portion of the Blitzen River has improved markedly, but woody riparian species have not increased adequately to provide the density and height of good riparian habitat.

Woody riparian plants provide stream shading and favorable nesting and feeding sites for many nongame birds. Littlefield (1987) found only four pairs of nesting yellow warblers (per transect) in poor condition riparian habitat with sparse woody vegetation while he found over 20 pairs (per transect) in better condition habitat on the Little Blitzen River.

"The yellow warbler is considered an indicator species, being more numerous in areas with high shrub volume and with little or no livestock use" (Taylor and Littlefield, 1986). Taylor (1984) found the number of songbirds increased significantly with both shrub volume and shrub height classes; and the number of breeding songbirds decreased significantly with the frequency of grazing along the lower Blitzen River. Other nongame birds using the river corridor include belted kingfisher, northern flicker, western wood peewee, western kingbird, and many other species.

Segment A

Bald eagles are winter-spring residents with sightings up the Donner und Blitzen River Canyon. A winter roost may exist in this area.

Nesting waterfowl make light use of the area with most of the nesting by common mergansers and

dabbling ducks. Some nesting by Canada geese occurs. Sub-zero temperatures freeze canals and ponds on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuse and waterfowl using the Refuge move onto the lower portion of Segment A. Most of these birds are mallards, bufflehead, common goldeneye, and Canada geese. Chukar and valley quail are found throughout this segment. Mourning doves nest in the area.

Songbirds may use the Donner und Blitzen River Canyon and the Little Blitzen Canyon as a migration route (Littlefield 1987). Cougar may use this area for seasonal movements.

The lower portion of the Donner und Blitzen River, from the mouth of Fish Creek downstream, is deer winter range, Occasional use by wintering Rocky Mountain elk also occurs.

The condition of riparian habitat is poor from Page Springs Campground upstream to the mouth of Fish Creek. Cattle have been excluded from this section since 1981. Streambank stability and willow density have increased markedly with protection. However, this section is still lacking in woody structure and in woody species diversity which is found in better condition riparian habitat. Beaver use this area extensively, reducing the density of willow and alder slowing plant succession.

Upstream from the mouth of Fish Creek the canyon becomes narrow and rugged. From Big Springs upstream to the mouth of Tombstone Canyon, riparian habitat is in excellent condition. Most of this section has a dense riparian shrub and tree cover with stable streambanks. Except for a few small areas, livestock cannot graze this area due to the difficult terrain.

Riparian habitat is in poor condition along 4.3 miles of stream, in fair condition along 2.1 miles, in good condition along 2.1 miles, and in excellent condition along 5.7 miles in this segment.

Segment B

The Little Blitzen River. from its mouth to the Riddle Brothers Ranch, has approximately 2 miles of river which has serious streambank erosion. The density of riparian shrubs and trees, perennial herbaceous species. is far below the site potential.

Some chukar use occurs in this area.

Upstream from the Riddle Brothers Ranch woody cover increases. Near the ranch, Littlefield (1987) found 67 bird specks using the riparian zone or adjacent areas.

Abundant aspen. black cottonwood, and western juniper provide habitat for cavity nesting birds, such as northern flicker. red-naped sapsucker, and downy woodpecker in large portions of the Little Blitzen River Gorge and wooded areas above the rim.

The quality of riparian habitat along the Little Blitzen River is 1.7 miles in poor condition, 6.5 miles in fair condition, and 5.6 miles in good condition.

Above the canyon rim, in the uppermost portion of this segment, is a small area of subalpine dominated by sheep fescue. Black rosy finch nest in the subalpine area. a rare occurrence in Oregon. One prairie falcon eyrie has been located on the rim of the gorge. Pika may be found at the head of the gorge. California bighorn sheep use the head of the Little Blitzen River Gorge following the recreation season.

The Little B t itzen River Gorge is deer summer range with occasional use by elk. Pronghom antelope and sage grouse use some of the uplands above the canyon rims as summer range.

Segment C

This segment varies greatly in riparian habitat quality. A long, rocky section between the confluence of the Little Blitzen River and the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River upstream to

the mouth of Indian Creek, is in good condition. High numbers of songbirds use the dense mountain alder/redosier dogwood plant community. Upper reaches of this segment have a more gentle topography with a degraded, sparse woody riparian plant community in poor and fair condition. Some use by sage grouse occurs in this upper portion. Deer summer within this area with most of the use upstream from the confluence with Indian Creek. Occasional use by elk also occurs during the summer.

The riparian habitat condition is 2.1 miles in poor condition, 5.9 miles in fair condition, and 4.6 miles in good condition.

Segment D

The lower reaches of Indian Creek have a fair to good riparian cover. The upper portion of Big Indian Creek has a riparian zone in good condition. The condition of riparian habitat within this segment is 3.2 miles in fair condition and 8.7 miles in good condition.

The Big Indian Canyon is deer summer range. Trophy bucks are often observed on the ridge between Big Indian Canyon and Little Indian Canyon. Some elk use occurs from spring through fall. Pika may be found at the head of Big Indian Canyon.

Segment E

Riparian habitat in the Little Indian Canyon is in good condition along 2.5 miles of stream and in excellent condition along 1.6 miles. Extensive aspen cover and canyon slopes provide good habitat for summering deer. Occasional use by summering elk also occurs. California bighorn sheep use the head of Little Indian Canyon following the recreation season. Pika may also be found in the head of the gorge.

Segment F

Riparian habitat on public lands is in good condition along 1.6 miles and in excellent condition along 3.7 miles of the stream. Inventory has not been completed on 1.1 miles of public lands.

Extensive aspen covering the north-facing slopes along upper Fish Creek provide good habitat for summering deer. The lower 4 miles of Fish Creek is within deer winter range. Light use by elk occurs within this area.

The large beaver dam complex on private property in the upper part of Fish Creek is used by nesting dabbling ducks.

RIPARIAN HABITAT CONDITION - 1991

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not Inventoried	Total
Segment A	.3	2.1	2.1	5.7	0	14.2
Segment B	1.7	6.5	5.6		0	13.8
Segment C	2.1	5.9	4.6		0	12.6
Segment D		3.2	8.7		0	11.9
Segment E			2.5	1.6	0	4.1
Segment F			1.6	3.7	1.1	6.4

FISHERIES

Aquatic habitat inventory was conducted on approximately 40 miles of the Donner und Blitzen River system during the summer of I 99 1 and 1992. Stream habitat features were identified, quantified, and rated for reaches along the stream segments identified. Inventory data described present habitat condition for aquatic species and vulnerability of the aquatic habitat to impacts associated with land management activities. The vegetative component of the aquatic habitat inventory has been included in the Vegetative Section.

Segment A

Approximately 7.5 miles of the mainstem of the Donner und Blitzen River were surveyed during the summer of 1992. The stream channel was well defined and generally stable. Streamside riparian vegetation was lacking in structure and diversity of woody species. Some bank erosion was evident. but generally banks were well armored or vegetated and not actively eroding.

In lower reaches of the mainstem of the Donner und Biitzen River. pools were shallow, often lacking in cover and not numerous. The pool quality and quantity generally improved as the aquatic habitat survey team moved upstream from the confluence with Fish Creek.

In lower reaches, bottom materials were only 15 to 40 percent rocky material and often covered with sediments. Substrate improved in upstream reaches where bottom materials were less embedded and materials were of sufficient size and quantity to provide suitable spawning sites.

Stream structure and diversity in upper reaches exhibited a uniform distribution and abundance of cover, and diversity of habitats for aquatic species.

Aquatic habitat was rated overall in good condition for those reaches surveyed in 1992.

Segment B

Stream habitat in lower reaches of the Little Blitzen River is rated as fair.

Canopy, which is riparian vegetation that hangs over the stream, provides shade and woody debris to the stream, and serves as a nutrient source for aquatic organisms. Canopy along the Little Blitzen River was in poor condition in lower reaches, for example downstream of the mouth of Little Blitzen River Gorge. Canopy improved to good condition in upper reaches, those reaches upstream of the mouth of Little Blitzen River Gorge.

The lower reaches of the stream were predominantly riffle or rapid with a low percentage of pools. Pools were often of poor quality. The upper reaches had improved instream structure, with more numerous pools of higher quality.

The stream channel was morphologically well defined, generally stable, and rated fair to good overall. Bank stability was fair in the lower reaches, improving to good in the upper reaches. Bank erosion was common with many cut and eroding banks observed in areas accessible by livestock below the mouth of Little Blitzen River Gorge. Bar formation and siltation were also common in pool areas and backwaters in the lower reaches.

Bottom materials provided sufficient spawning substrate: however, only 5 to 25 percent of the channel was suitable for spawning in the lower reaches. No migration blocks were observed in the lower reaches and waterfalls did limit fish migration in the upper reaches of the Little Blitzen River Gorge.

Stream structure and diversity ranged from fair to good in the lower to upper reaches, respectively. Boulders, tree limbs, and large woody debris were widely distributed in the upper reaches and provided several habitat types with adequate cover. This instream structure was largely absent in the lower reaches surveyed below the mouth of the Little Blitzen River Gorge.

Segment C

The south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River was surveyed from the confluence with the Little Blitzen River to the south fork headwaters. Data collected from inventory of 1.5 miles of Deep Creek, included with Segment C, was broken out in the table on page 27 for clarity. Habitat was in good condition along the initial 6.8 miles surveyed beginning at the confluence of the Little Blitzen River and the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River to the Bill Taber Cabin, approximately 7 miles above the confluence of Segments B and C. From the cabin, a short reach was in fair condition (approximately 0.7 mile) while the 5.5 miles surveyed from Mud Creek to the headwaters were in poor condition.

On the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River, below the Bill Taber Cabin, dense thickets provided good canopy and cover for aquatic species, good bank stability, and material for instream structure. Pools covered 15 to 20 percent of the channel and were generally of sufficient depth to provide good cover. The stream channel was well defined, flowing through a narrow canyon. Bottom materials were primarily rocky and large enough to provide good spawning substrate. In slow-moving water, substrates were 25 to 75 percent embedded with silt and sediment.

In upper reaches of Segment C, the riparian community was severely impacted by livestock and wild-horse grazing. Little streamside canopy and instream cover was available for aquatic species. The main channel was less constrained in this section. Bank erosion was common and few pools existed. Bottom materials had sediments covering much of the bed area in any slow-moving water. Less than 5 percent of the channel was suitable for spawning.

Segment D

Approximately 7 miles of Indian and Big Indian Creek were surveyed from the confluence with the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River. Overall stream habitat was in fair condition from Blitzen Crossing upstream to Newton Cabin, approximately 2 miles above the confluence of Segments C and D. Vegetation was dense enough to provide fair to good canopy and some cover for aquatic species. Pools were few in number, shallow, and in fair condition.

Stream channel stability was generally good with most of the channel well defined. Bank stability was fair to good in most areas but several sections had prominent cut banks. Bottom materials were generally rocky, greater than 2 inches in diameter, and suitable as spawning substrate. Due to silt and sediment, these lower reaches were moderately embedded with most spawning substrate and in poor condition. Instream structure and diversity was limited with little cover and few habitat types.

Stream habitat from Newton Cabin upstream to the middle of Big Indian Canyon, approximately 6 miles above the confluence of Segments C and D, was generally in good condition. Headwater reaches were in excellent condition in the upper portions of Big Indian Canyon.

Moderate amounts of vegetative canopy provided fair to good cover for aquatic species in all reaches. Pool quality and quantity improved to good condition upstream from Newton Cabin and in the headwater reaches of Big Indian Canyon.

In all reaches of this Segment, banks were well vegetated or armored with rock providing good bank stability and reducing erosion. Bottom material provided spawning substrate of adequate size and distribution. The headwater reaches did have cascades and waterfalls that impede fish migration. Stream structure and diversity were good with adequate cover and several habitat types commonly found in upper reaches.

Segment E

Stream habitat along Little Indian Creek is in good condition throughout the 1.2 miles surveyed.

Dense growth provided as much as 80 percent canopy cover for the aquatic habitat.

Banks were well vegetated and heavily armored with rock. Fools were frequent and of high quality for aquatic species. Bottom materials were primarily large boulders and cobbles. Cascades frequently formed barriers to fish migration.

Overall structure and diversity were good with excellent cover and numerous habitat types available for aquatic species.

Segment F

Approximately 1.2 miles of Lower Fish Creek were surveyed during the 1992 field season. This lower portion of Fish Creek is a steep-walled, narrow canyon that has no livestock or wild-horse access. Dense riparian cover provided 70-80 percent canopy and much material for it-stream structure. Banks were well vegetated and armored, and no bank erosion was occurring. Pools covered more than 25 percent of the channel and were of sufficient depth to provide good cover.

Bottom materials were primarily large boulders and cobbles. with good spawning substrate abundant. In slow-moving waters, some sedimentation was occurring and substrate was 2.5 percent embedded.

Aquatic habitat was in excellent condition along this reach of Fish Creek. Surveys were terminated due to a 400-acre fire that burned 1.75 miles of the Fish Creek Canyon. Spring runoff of steep sideslopes and absence of riparian vegetation will produce elevated water temperatures and heavy sedimentation in Fish Creek this spring. along the lower 3 miles of the canyon.

CULTURAL

Six portions of the Donner und Blitzen River were surveyed to provide basic information on the presence and general density of cultural materials near these segments. Approximately 35 river miles were inspected within the river corridor. The survey ranged in elevation frorn about 4,200 feet at Page Springs to nearly 8,000 feet at the head of Little Donner und Blitzen Canyon. Topography and vegetation varied throughout the river corridor. The Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District remains uninventoried, although significant historic and prehistoric resource values (and perhaps traditional resource values) are known to be present.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER AQUATIC HABITAT SURVEY - 1991 & 1992

	Aquatic Habitat Condition				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Total
Segment A			7.5		7.5
Segment B		4.9	3.6		x.5
Segment C	5.5	0.7	6.8		13.0
(Deep Creek)	1.1	0.3			1.5
Segment D		2.1	3.6	1.4	7.1
Segment E			1.2		1.2
Segment F				1.2	1.2

Cultural remains found were not extensive. These include 16 archaeological sites, 30 isolated flaked or ground stone tools, and 13 locations with historic period structures, debris, and/or tree carvings.

These areas were used by prehistoric people for subsistence pursuits, primarily hunting and plant food gathering. At present, cross-dating of projectile points can provide a rough estimate of the age of prehistoric occupation within the river corridor. The majority of tools observed during the surveys were fragmentary, but 14 projectile points were identified. The age spans for these projectiles suggest human use in the corridor was probably underway about 4,000 to 6,000 years ago, with some use as long ago as 8,000 years when ancient lakes filled the Malheur, Catlow, and Alvord basins.

Historic period uses were primarily for access and transportation, associated with stockraising and homestead development.

RECREATION

Recreation Activity Preferences

Existing recreational uses occurring within the Donner und Blitzen River include fishing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and photography. The river segments are not used for boating due to the small size of the stream. There are no competitive events held in the river corridor. The river canyons offer outstanding primitive recreation opportunities that provide a high degree of solitude and physical challenge.

Seasons and Time of Use

Due to limited vehicle access, snowpack, and weather, recreational opportunities vary with the season and time of use.

The Steens Mountain Loop Road is normally open in its entirety from mid-July through October. Portions of the Loop Road open earlier as weather permits. A series of gates along the Loop Road control vehicle access.

The lower end of the river near Page Springs Campground allows for year-round access. A visitor may hike as far as they want up into the corridor from this staging area.

Party Size and Place of Origin

Please refer to page 3 under Recreational for user surveys.

Visitation Estimates

There are no exact figures on visitor use within the Donner und Blitzen River. There is, however, good information on visitor use for the Steens Mountain Recreation Lands of which the river system is a part.

The Steens Mountain is a destination area due to its unique resource characteristics and associated recreation opportunities. Visitors travel long distances to recreate.

These figures for visitor use, from traffic counter data, are for the Steens Mountain Loop Road.

	Visitors
1981	20,231
1982	16,353
1983	20,456
1984	25,300
1985	28,560
1986	37,820
1987	41,995
1988	49,327
1989	50,631
1990	46,230
1991	47,916
1992	48,520

Recreation Setting *(Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classification)*

The recreation opportunity setting is the idea that quality recreation experiences can best be assured by providing a variety of recreation opportunities. The basic idea underlying the spectrum approach is that people participate in specific recreation activities, such as fishing. camping. and horseback riding, in specific settings such as at high mountain lakes, recreation sites, or designated trails.

They do so in order to attain desired recreation experiences such as solitude. being with family and friends, or taking risks. The recreation opportunity spectrum incorporates this thinking into a classification of recreation opportunities which estends from the primitive to the modern urban. The Bureau of Land Management has subdivided this spectrum into six classes: primitive, semi-primitive, motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban.

The Donner und Blitzen River has Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications assigned to the river corridor.

The Blitzen River and its tributaries offers outstanding primitive recreation opportunities that provide a very high degree of solitude and physical challenge.

GEOLOGY

Please refer to pages 3 and 13 for a description of the geology and landscape.

SOIL AND AIR

Soil

The soils within the river corridor were mapped by the Ecological Site Inventory crew in 1984. These soils are derived from the Steens Mountain Basalt which is about 16.4 million years old. Three distinct landforms are present in the corridor and consist of: (1) glaciated valleys, drainages, and swales, (2) canyonsides and hillsides, and (3) uplands bordering the canyons.

The soils in the valley bottoms and drainages are generally deep (40 to 60 inches) to very deep (greater than 60 inches) to bedrock and somewhat poorly to well drained. The wetter the soil. the more poorly it drains. The soils formed in alluvium and slopes range from 2 to 10 percent. The surface textures are silt loams and loams about 30 inches thick over silty clay loams and silty clays. The water erosion hazard is slight to moderate and the wind erosion hazard is low to moderate,

The soils on canyon sides and hillsides are generally moderately deep (20 to 40 inches) to deep over bedrock, and are well drained. Slopes range from 20 to 60 percent and the soils formed in colluvium. The surface textures are usually very gravelly loams or a very stony clay loam about 10 inches thick. over clay loams, and very stony clay loams. The water erosion hazard is moderate to severe and the wind erosion hazard is slight.

The upland soils are typically shallow (less than 20 inches deep) to moderately deep over bedrock. and well drained. The soils funned in place from basalt and slopes range from 2 to 30 percent. The surface textures range from very cobbly clay loams to extremely stony silt loams, about 6 to 8 inches thick over clay loams or very stony clays. The water erosion hazard is moderate to high and the wind erosion hazard is slight to moderate.

Air

Air quality in the area is often excellent with visibility limited only by terrain. There are seasonal sources of air pollution from the smoke of range and forest wildfires and also when fields and slash piles are being burned in western Oregon.

Winds are usually upslope to the east during the day, strengthening towards the top of the Steens Mountain, and downslope and gentle during the evening.

WATER

The Bureau of Land Management collects water quality information four times per year from permanent sampling stations on the Little Blitzen River (Segment B), south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River (Segment C), and Big Indian Creek (Segment D). In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey has maintained a gauging station on the mainstem of the Donner und Blitzen River just above Page Springs Campground (Segment A) since the early 1900's. Sixty-four years of discharge data and 10 years of water quality data have been collected from this sample site.

Water quantity varies greatly from year to year depending on annual precipitation. Mean discharge for the Donner und Blitzen River has ranged from 55 cubic feet per second (cfs) in 1966 to a high of 245 cfs in 1983.

Water quality varies greatly from site to site with the season of the year and land management practices in adjacent riparian and upland areas. Parameters routinely collected are air and water temperature, conductivity, total hardness, total alkalinity, pH, nitrate nitrogen, sulphates, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, color, and discharge. Generally, areas with poor riparian or aquatic habitat often have associated water quality problems.

The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge has the oldest and first priority irrigation rights dating back to 1872. There are several other ranches which also have irrigation rights allocated by priority dates.

These water rights were adjudicated on January 8, 1942 in a document titled, "The Decree of the Donner und Blitzen River and Tributaries of Malheur Lake." This document can be reviewed at the Harney County Courthouse.

These irrigation rights are for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding private ranches outside the river corridor.

When the Bureau acquired the Riddle Brothers Ranch, it was determined that the Riddles never filed for irrigation rights for watering their meadows on the Little Blitzen River. The Bureau filed in October 1990 with the Oregon Water Resources Department for a vested water right to irrigate the meadows along the Little Blitzen River.

This application has been rejected based on the fact that the Riddle Brothers were notified about the adjudication proceedings in January 1942 but failed to submit a claim.

In December 1990, the Bureau of Land Management filed for a water right for the use of 2.01 cfs of water from the Little Blitzen River for irrigation of 80.4 acres of meadow land. To date, the Oregon Water Resources Department has not made a determination on the application.

MINERALS

There are no mining claims within the boundary of the Wild and Scenic River.

In their mineral survey of the Wilderness Study Areas within the river corridor, the U.S. Geological Survey crews observed no mineralized or altered rocks in this area. They judged the area to have unknown potential for minerals because any mineralization would be buried beneath 2,000 to 4,000 feet of barren Steens Basalt lava flows.

Designation as a Wild and Scenic River has resulted in 19,273 acres of public land being withdrawn from mineral entry.

ENERGY AND UTILIZATION

There are no energy-related leases within the boundary of the designated Wild and Scenic River.

Due to the minimal probability that rocks capable of producing hydrocarbons exist at depth, the U.S. Geological Survey researchers judged the area to have no or low potential for oil and gas resources throughout the corridor. Because of the presence of hot springs within the general area, they judged the corridor to have moderate potential for geothermal energy along the northwest-trending fault zone. These hot springs are located on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 3 miles west of the designated river corridor.

No energy resources or occurrences were identified within or adjacent to the river corridor. Geothermal resources, if found in the area, may not be of sufficient temperature or quantity for electrical energy generation,

Designation as a Wild and Scenic River has resulted in 19,273 acres of public land being withdrawn from oil, gas, and geothermal energy leasing.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

The upper Donner und Blitzen River watershed is impacted by an established military training route. This route is identified as VR-1301 and is used by military aircraft under visual flight rules (visibility 5 miles or more, 3,000 foot AGL ceiling or more). Aircraft flown by the Idaho Air National Guard, using this Military Training Route, are out of Boise, Idaho. Typical aircraft flying this route are jet fighters (F16s, A6s, and F4s). They usually fly in pairs during the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (but are not limited to this time period). Normally, activity on this Military Training Route is less on weekends. The pilots are practicing navigation, terrain following maneuvers, and low level techniques. In the area of consideration, VR-1301 has a west-to-east traverse with the centerline running between Segment F and Segment B. However, pilots are allowed 5 nautical miles on either side of the cen terline. Most sightings indicate that pilots favor Segment B. These aircraft travel in excess of 250 knots at low level altitudes, ranging from the surface to 1,500 feet above ground level,

TRIBAL CONSIDERATIONS

Native American resource values requiring management consideration may be present, but at this time are not known to occur within the river corridor zone. Input is being sought from the Burns Paiute Tribe as part of the planning process, so that any important tribal values will be considered for protection and/or enhancement, as feasible, and documented in the Final Plan, as appropriate.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Final Bureau of Land Management wilderness recommendations have ken submitted to the President of the United States. On July 22, 1992, President Bush sent to Congress the "Oregon Public Lands Wilderness Act." Until the wilderness process has been completed, these areas must be managed so they do not impact their suitability for designation as wilderness.

This table shows the approximate acreages in the wilderness preferred alternative, which President Bush sent to Congress, that are within the boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River corridor:

Alternatives of Wilderness Proposals

Wilderness Study Area	Number	Preferred
Donner und Blitzen River	2-86F	4,960
Little Blitzen River Gorge	2-86F	2,560
High Steens	2-85F	1,920
South Fork Donner und Blitzen River	2-85G	N/A
	TOTAL	**9,440**

For more detail on each of the Wilderness Study Areas within the river corridor, you may refer to the Final Oregon Statewide Environmental Impact Statement, 12-89, Volume III. Volume III contains the detailed writeups for each of the Wilderness Study Areas (pages 427-557).

OTHER MANAGEMENT DESIGNATIONS

Please refer to the Other Management Designation on page 6.

If you need more detailed information regarding the Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern , Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District, and the Steens Mountain Recreation Lands, you may contact the Burns District Office.

CHAPTER 3
PROPOSED PLAN

The Proposed Plan will affect lands within the final boundaries of the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River.

This plan will provide direction for managing the resources within the river corridor. The!; will:

1. Provide for protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These values have been identified in the Resource Assessment and the Affected Environment section of the Draft River Management Plan.

2. Take into account the rights and interest of lundowners and user groups while minimizing conflicts and impacts to the river environment.

3. Utilize baseline data such as rangeland monitoring studies, ecological site inventories, and information from 1991 and 1992 inventories on riparian, aquatic habitat, cultural resources, and recreation visitor use analysis to determine progress on improving segments within the river corridor that are in less than good condition.

4. Establish a timeline for implementing management actions and what the desired future trends of the river corridor will be.

Monitoring studies will continue or be established for all resource activities within the corridor to determine impacts, trend, and serve as indicators for future management direction.

Management tools which may be used to implement actions within the river corridor include fencing, prescribed fire, changing seasons of use for livestock management, special recreation use permits, and signing. This list is not inclusive of all management tools which could be used.

Information and education programs will be developed to assist resource users on low-impact use and interpreting the natural resources.

As a result of public input to the Draft River Management Plan, there are changes to the environmental assessment. These changes are shown in ***bold, italic*** type and are described within Chapters 3, 4, and 5. They will reflect what future trend within the river corridor will be, timelines for completion of objectives, and any mitigating measures which will be used in accomplishing the proposed actions.

Impacts to the river corridor from recreational use will be monitored and actions taken to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

As improvements are made in grazing management, riparian conditions, stabilization of banks and stream channels, soil and water quality will be enhanced.

Improvements will be based on the 15-year implementation plan to improve to an ecological condition of poor to fair, fair to good, and good to excellent for riparian, fisheries, and wildlife habitat within the river corridor.

Water quality will meet standards for beneficial uses as established by the State Department of Environmental Quality nonpoint source pollution.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

1. Recreation Management

A variety of recreational uses are now occurring within the Blitzen River and its tributaries. Allow for dispersed recreational opportunities within the river system as long as protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values are the priority. Some of these activities will include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing/photography, hunting, and fishing.

Management Objectives

Continue to manage the recreational opportunities within the river corridor at the present level of use.

Use the Limits of Acceptable Change as the method to monitor existing and future trends for each river segment within the river corridor.

Implement the Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District.

Educate the public on the outstandingly remarkable values, sensitive plant and animal communities, and low impact recreational use within the river corridor.

Management Actions

Monitor recreational use for trends, user conflicts, and impacts to natural values. Use the Limits of Acceptable Change as a method to monitor existing and future trends. Establish Limits of Acceptable Change indicators and standards during the spring/summer of 1993. Complete the study within 5 years (1998) and implement any changes by the year 2000.

Utilize Special Recreation Use Permits for individuals and large groups (having 15 or more people) involving special recreation, scientific study, and educational activities which could affect the outstandingly remarkable values and the recreational use of other visitors, including competitive and commercial use of the public lands.

Maintain 0.5 mile of road and maintain and stabilize the low water ford at Indian Creek. This will provide for safe passage of vehicles to the South Steens public

lands. and will also improve bank stabilization. resulting in less sedimentation nnd erosion downstream of the ford.

Close to mountain bikes and other mechanized equipment 17 miles of river corridor in the Little Blitzen River Gorge and the Big and Little Indian Canyons.

Under the Final Plan, the recommendatiott to develop a campground along the access road into the Big Indian Canyon will be deferred. This urea is outside of the river corridor nttd is presently beittg addressed in the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan amendtnettt nttd environmental assessment.

Drop the recommend&ions to develop a parking area (pull-off) adjacent to the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road for a day use staging area ittto the Little Blitzen Canyon. This area is outside the river corridor. This proposal is also being considered in the Andrew Resource Area Management Framework Plan amendment and en vironmental assessment.

The recommendation to maintain approximately 7.25 miles of secondary roads are not part of this Proposed Plan. Secondary roads will be addressed in the Andrew Resource Area Management Framework Plan amendtnent and en vironmental assessment.

Develop the recreational and educational opportunities for the Riddle Brothels Ranch National Historic District (located in Segment B) consistent with the objectives outlined in the Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Register Historic District (EA-OR-020-9-S).

Some of the actions outlined in the Cultural Resource Management Plan include the following recommendations:

- Manage public use as day use only
- Stabilize all structures
- Provide a caretaker
- Develop an interpretive trail for the Historic District
- Interpret the Historic District through oral presentations, brochures, and signing

Develop educational brochures and establish signs educating the public to low impact recreational use, and interpretation of the natural resources within the river corridor.

2. Grazing Management - Livestock Management Objectives

Because of recreation and riparian values, the following areas are excluded, or have very little use, by livestock grazing, due to topography, fencing, and changes in livestock management.

Segment A 16.0 miles	From the confluence of the Little Blitzen River to Page Springs Campground
Segment B 9.0 miles	7 miles of the Little Bli tzen River Gorge 2 miles from Riddle Brothers Ranch to confluence with the Donner und Blitzen Rivei
Segment C 2.0 miles	Up river from Bli tzen Crossing

Segment D	6.0 miles	Big Indian Canyon
Segment E	4.0 miles	Little Indian Canyon
Segment F	3.0 miles	The lower 3 miles of Fish Creek Canyon
	40.0 miles	

The river management plan will set standards for protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values. Grazing systems developed with coordinated resource management plans will improve aesthetics, protect and enhance habitat for wildlife, fisheries, and riparian conditions.

Improve riparian habitat by stabilizing streambanks, increasing desired herbaceous riparian species (rushes and sedges), increasing desired woody species (willows and associated species), narrowing stream channels, increasing stream depth, and reducing sedimentation where applicable. Management will maintain or improve all good and excellent riparian condition. Improve the trend of riparian condition (as measured by Bureau of Land Management riparian and rangeland monitoring studies) within 3 years following the implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Change riparian condition on those portions of the Wild and Scenic River System presently in poor to fair riparian condition within 5 years following implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Change riparian condition to good and/or excellent within 15 years following implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Some portions of the Wild and Scenic River System may not reflect a condition class change within the timeframes outlined in the above objectives regardless of management changes. These portions of the Wild and Scenic River System will have a measurable upward trend (as measured by Bureau of Land Management riparian and rangeland monitoring studies) within the timeframes outlined.[1] (Please refer to stream segment criteria in Appendix D.)

Management Actions

Grazing management changes will be implemented to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the Wild and Scenic River System. This will require fencing, development and protection of alternative water sources, or elimination of livestock grazing.

Where grazing is continued, coordinated resource management plans will be developed to ensure timing and duration of grazing, season of use, and periodic rest during critical growth periods are provided to improve and/or maintain riparian and upland sites within the river corridor.

Grazing within the riparian zone will be managed not to exceed 45 percent utilization of annual growth of herbaceous species and not to exceed 20 percent of utilization of annual growth of woody species.

The management of that 80.4 acres of Segment B of the Little Blitzen River known as the Little Blitzen Meadows, which is within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District, is managed and controlled by the Rex Clemens Ranch, Inc., under a lifetime estate.

[1]Indicators of trend in riparian condition used to analyze change include, but are not limited to the following: Increase in ground cover, composition changes in herbaceous species, establishment and/or increase in woody species, changes in streambank stability, changes in stream depth and width.

Future management will encompass a short duration grazing period (2-4 weeks) during a spring/early summer season of use. Grazing will be managed at a utilization level not to exceed 45 percent of annual growth for herbaceous species and not to exceed 20 percent utilization of annual growth of woody species. Other grazing management changes such as, but not limited to, periodic rest may be implemented through the development of the Coordinated Resource Management Plan for Fish Creek/Rig Indian Allotment.

Enforce existing exclosures from livestock use within the river corridor.

Work with the private landowners in Fish Creek (Segment F) and the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River (Segment C) to protect and enhance the resource values in the area.

3. Wild Horse Management

Management Objectives

Due to riparian values within the river corridor, manage wild horses to protect and improve riparian and upland condition within herd numbers designated in the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan. Management herd numbers now range from 159-304 horses.

Management, Actions

Gather wild horses in the river corridor when monitoring indicates negative impacts to riparian and upland sites. These bands of horses should be gathered immediately and not wait until the numbers within the Herd Management Area reach the maximum of 304 animals.

Enforce existing exclosures from wild-horse use within the river corridor which are outside of the Herd Management Area.

4. Ripnrian Management

Management Objectives

Maintain and, where necessary, restore the streamside vegetation, stream channel stability, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat throughout the river corridor. Utilize interdisciplinary approach and participative effort in coordinated resource management plans.

Protect and enhance the identified unique or sensitive vegetation areas which include wet meadows, seeps. and bogs within the corridor.

Maintain healthy uplands within and adjacent to the river corridor.

Continue to maintain existing exclosures from livestock and wild-horse grazing.

Improve riparian habitat by stabilizing streambanks, increasing desired herbaceous riparian species (rushes and sedges), increasing desired woody species (willows and associated species), narrowing stream channels, increasing stream depth, and reducing sedimentation where applicable. Management will maintain or improve all good and excellent riparian condition. Improve the trend of riparian condition (as measured by Bureau of Land Management riparian and rangeland monitoring studies) within 3 years following the implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Change riparian condition on those portions of the Wild and Scenic River System presently in poor to fair riparian

condition within 5 years following implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Change riparian condition to good and/or excellent within 15 years following implementation of coordinated resource management plans. Some portions of the Wild and Scenic River System may not reflect a condition class change within the timeframes outlined in the above objectives regardless of management changes. These portions of the Wild and Scenic River System will have a measurable upward trend (as measured by Bureau of Land Management riparian and rangeland monitoring studies) within the timeframes outlined.[2] *(Please refer to stream segment criteria in Appendix D.)*

Management Actions

A timeline of 15 years is proposed for livestock and wild-horse management actions which will lead to protection and enhancement of the outstanding remarkable values within the river corridor.

Coordinated resource management plans will prescribe grazing systems which outline timing and duration of grazing, season of use, and critical rest to improve riparian values within the river corridor.

Grazing management of livestock and wild horses will be implemented to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the Wild and Scenic River System. This will require fencing, development, and protection of alternative water sources, or elimination of livestock and wild horse grazing within the wild and scenic river corridor.

Periods of rest from grazing by livestock and wild horses will be adequate to ensure establishment and maintenance of desired woody species.

Grazing is not to exceed a 45 percent utilization of annual growth of herbaceous species and is not to exceed 20 percent utilization of annual growth of woody plant species within riparian zones.

Enforce existing exclosures from livestock and wild-horse use within the river corridor.

5. Fish and Wildlife Management

The fish and wildlife within the river corridor will be managed to protect and enhance these two outstandingly remarkable resources.

The Bureau of Land Management will be responsible for habitat management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be responsible for actual fish and wildlife species and numbers.

Management Objectives

Management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat will be the same as described under riparian management.

Based on existing data from the summer inventories of 1991 and 1992, improve fish and wildlife habitat to a condition of good to excellent, throughout the river corridor, over a 15-year period.

Objectives of coordinated resource management plans will be to improve habitat and increase fish population numbers for redband trout and the Malheur mottled sculpin (both Candidate 2 species as Threatened and Endangered).

[2]Indicators of trend in riparian condition used to analyze change include, but are not limited to the following: Increase in ground cover, composition changes in herbaceous species, establishment and/or increase in woody species, changes in streambank stability, changes in stream depth and width.

Within the uplands of the river corridor, increase mountain big sagebrush, aspen, and other plant communities through a reduction of western juniper.

Management Actions

Action items will be the same as those recommended for riparian management.

Use small prescribed fires on selected sites within the river corridor to control junipers. These burns will improve plant species richness, increase mountain big sagebrush, and aspen, thus improving wildlife habitat.

Monitor fish and wildlife for existing and future trend conditions within the river corridor.

6. Water Quality/Water Quantity

Valid water rights are not affected by a National Wild and Scenic River designation. The State manages and allocates water rights, Existing uses. dams, diversions, and other water projects located on this river are not affected. Maintenance and construction of facilities needed to use existing valid water rights will continue.

Instream water rights are water rights held by the Oregon Water Resources Department for the benefit of the people of Oregon. Only three state agencies (Department of Fish and Wildlife. Department of Environmental Quality, and Parks and Recreation Department) are allowed to request instream water rights. New water rights and project proposals will be evaluated on their potential to affect the attributes which made the river eligible as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has applied for instream water rights within the boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River. At this time, the Water Resources Board has not made a determination on their applications.

Management. Objectives

Improve water quality to meet or exceed quality requirements for all beneficial uses as established by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality nonpoint source assessment and management plan.

Cooperate and assist the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality program with the study of the Donner und Blitzen River as a potential "Outstanding Resource Waters" with state mandated water quality standards. Department of Environmental Quality will notify the Bureau of Land Management prior to starting this project.

Continue to irrigate 80.4 acres of meadow along the Little Blitzen River within Segment B.

Management Actions

Collect water quality data within each segment of the river corridor to build a database. At the present time, wafer quality data is collected only in Segment C four times per year. Water quality stations will be established within the remaining river segments by 1995 and data collected four times per year.

Water quality data normally collected by the Bureau of Land Management includes testing for air and water temperature, conductivity, total hardness, total alkalinity, pH, nitrate nitrogen, sulphates, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, odor, attd discharge.

To build the database for each river segment, it is recommended to add the testing of coliform bacteria once per year within each river segment.

Water quality data will be collected from 1995 to the year 2000 to determine the areas of concern by river segment. Appropriate actions will be taken to meet or exceed state (Department of Environmental Quality) mandated water quality standards for nonpoint source pollution.

The Citizen Advisory group recommended that a hydrological study be undertaken to see exactly how much irrigation is needed for the 80.4 acres of meadows within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District, what conditions warrant when irrigation should be stopped, and the effects of irrigation on fisheries and aquatic habitat.

The 80.4 acres of meadows along the Little Blitzen River within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District will be irrigated as outlined in the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District Cultural Resource Management Plan unless the State Water Resources denies the 2.01 CFS applied for by the Bureau.

By the year 1995, complete the hydrological study to determine proper irrigation needs for the 80.4 acres of meadows in the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District.

7. Cultural Resource Management

Management Objectives

Continue the implementation of the Riddle Brothers Ranch Cultural Resource Management Plan (EA-OR-020-9-8). The Historic District encompasses 1,120 acres, within Segment B, along the Little Blitzen River. All objectives of the Cultural Resource Management Plan are consistent within the guidelines of a "Wild River" as outlined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Monitor known cultural sites within the river corridor for vandalism and assess research opportunities within the river corridor.

Management Actions

Evaluate all cultural resource sites with prehistoric, historic, and traditional values present for potential public use and for educational purposes.

Complete inventories on the remaining 37 miles of the river system that have not been inventoried.

Increase law enforcement patrols on known cultural sites for protection of these resources.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT/ VISITOR MANAGEMENT

1. Recreation Facility Developments

Management Objectives

All recreational developments must protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor.

Management Actions

Maintain existing facility at Page Springs Recreation Site. Recent upgrading of the campground has improved opportunities for river users and provides an excellent staging area for recreational use to the river corridor.

Establish a day use parking/staging area at Blitzen Crossing. At the present time, there is little physical space with no organized parking available.

2. Road Maintenance

Management 0 bjectives

All road maintenance must protect and enhance the resource values within the river corridor. Maintain the Steens Mountain Loop Road for public access to the river corridor. The Loop Road is also a National Back Country Byway.

A well maintained Steens Mountain Loop Road will stabilize the roadbed to eliminate erosion in&o the river corridor.

Management Actions

Continue to maintain the S teens Mountain Loop Road,

Maintain and stabilize the low water river crossing at Indian Creek (Segment D) to stabilize the banks and prevent erosion and siltation of the river downstream from the ford. This will provide for safe passage of vehicles to a large block of public lands in the south Steens.

Maintain and gravel the road into the Riddle Brothers Ranch, from the southern portion of the Loop Road, for recreational and administrative use of the ranch.

No new motorized access would be permitted within the river corridor.

3. Off-Highway Vehicle Use/ Road Closures

Management Objectives

Maintain existing off-road vehicle restrictions in accordance with the Bums District Off Highway Vehicle Designation (February 12, 1987) and the Steens Mountain Off-Road Vehicle Plan (September 30, 1980).

Management Actions

Motorized vehicle use wilt occur within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District for recreation, administrative, and ranching purposes.

Close 1 mile of road to motorized use in Segment A which enters the Donner und Blitzen River corridor near Big Springs. This road can only be negotiated by all terrain vehicles and motorcycles whew it enters the west slope of the canyon and is virtually non-esistent and unusable where it parallels the river. Write and publish a supplementary closure notice for the 1 mile of road under 43 CFR Part 8340.

4. Trails

The Oregon High Desert National Recreation Trail, which is part of the Oregon State Trails System, is established and trail guides are available to the public within the river corridor.

Management Objectives

Maintain existing trails throughout the river system ,

Monitor recreational use of the trails for impacts to the river resources, user conflicts, and to determine what management options are needed to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values.

Management Actions

Develop 2.25 miles of the Riddle Brothers Ranch Interpretive trail. This will be a "corridor concept" trail interpreting the Historic District.

Close to mountain bikes the portions of the river corridor totaling approximately 17 miles within Little Blitzen River Gorge, Big, and Little Indian Canyons which are designated as primitive under the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classification. Write supplementary rules to prohibit mountain bikes and mechanized equipment under 43 CFR Part 8365.1.

5. Public Outreach

Management Objectives

Educate the public on the outstandingly remarkable values within the Wild and Scenic River System.

Management Actions

Develop informational/educational messages for the public. Types of media which will be used are video, brochures, kiosk, interpretive, and directional signs.

Make information available at key access points to the river corridor - in the campgrounds, with campground hosts, and at the proposed interpretive center at Frenchglen.

6. Search and Rescue

Harney County Sheriff's Department is responsible for any Search and Rescue within the county.

Management Objectives

Provide for health and safety of visiting public within the river corridor. Provide and make available information on known hazards.

Management Actions

The Bureau of Land Management will assist the county as needed in any emergency that may occur.

7. Law Enforcement

Management Objectives

Enforce regulations for protection of natural resources.

Management Actions

Provide Bureau of Land Management Ranger coverage for the Donner und Blitzen River. Work with other agencies (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police, Harney County Sheriff Department) to provide enforcement on land and water for protection of the resources and users.

LANDOWNERSHIP

1. Private Landowners

Management 0 bjectives

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not give the Federal government authority to zone or otherwise control use of private lands. Agricultural and grazing activities on private lands present at the time of designation will not be affected.

County cotnprehensive land-use plans in Oregon must recognize and provide protection of Federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers under Statewide Planning Goal 5. This could require county plan amendments which might constrain private landowners.

Management Actions

The Bureau of Land Management will work closely with landowners to assure that all uses are consistent with the intent of the Act. Fencing the river corridor on private lands is not anticipated at this time, Unless a protective or scenic easement has been granted to the Bureau, landowners are subject only to State and local regulations.

2. Management Cooperation Between Agencies and Affected Parties

Management Objectives

Develop and/or coordinate management programs with landowners, user groups, and the local, State, and Federal agencies shown below.

Management Actions

Coordination will occur with the following agencies:

Harney County
s tate of Oregon
- Water Resources Department
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Division of State Lands
- Historic Preservation Office
- Department of Environmental Quality

US. Geological Survey
- Water Resources Division

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Burns Paiute Tribe

3. Land Exchanges/Purchases/ Easement

Management Objectives

Acquire. through land exchanges, purchases or conservation casements, on a willing buyer/seller grantor basis, any private lands within the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Management Actions

Identify and then prioritize any suitable lands for exchange, purchase, or easements within the river corridor.

Any land exchanges or purchases will be undertaken only with willing parties. No condemnation for fee title will occur.

4. Administrative Boundaries

Management. Objectives

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has the

purpose of protecting and enhancing the Donner und Blitzen River and its immediate environment in a free-flowing condition. The corridor boundaries include the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated.

The corridor boundaries are governed by the location of these outstandingly remarkable values. By law these boundaries do not exceed 320 acres per river mile.

Management Actions

The boundaries become final with approval of the river management plan.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS/-CONSIDERATIONS

1. Juniper Encroachment

Management Objectives

Control the advancement of juniper within the river corridor and surrounding uplands. By controlling juniper, an increase in mountain big sagebrush, aspen, and other plant communities will occur resulting in improved wildlife habitat.

Management Actions

Develop a burn plan for the river corridor by 1995.

Use prescribed fire as a management tool to control juniper and enhance any of the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor.

2. Fire Management

Management Objectives

Avoid potential contamination of water resources as a result of fire suppression activities.

Fire suppression activities will not impact the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor.

Follow guidelines and objectives developed in the burn plan when suppressing a wildfire within the river corridor.

Management Actions

Plan (or allow) no retardant drops within 1/4 mile (0.25 mile) of the Donner und Blitzen River boundary except to protect public health and safety. Use of mechanized equipment would be minimized and directed at protecting sensitive resources such as the Riddle Brothers Ranch and developed facilities.

Utilize hand crews in place of mechanized equipment whenever possible.

3. Research Natural Areas/ Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Objectives

Protect and enhance the existing three Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the river corridor and manage for the resource values for which they were

established. They include the Rooster Comb Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Little Blitzen Research Natural Area/ Area of Critical Environmental Concern within Segment B, and the Steens Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern which covers Segments B, D, and E.

Management Actions

Analyze the Unique Natural Areas (as identified in the inventories) to see if they meet the requirements for Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as described in the Oregon Natural Heritage Program and designate those that meet the criteria in the upcoming Andrews Resource Management Plan. Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would be subject to interim management to protect sensitive values until formal evaluation through the Resource Management Plan or 8 plan amendment are final.

4. Wilderness Study Areas

On July 22, 1992, President Bush sent to Congress the "Oregon Public Lands Wilderness Act." The proposal is to add lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management to the National Wilderness Preservation System,

Management 0 bjectives

Protect the Wilderness Study Areas that are within the river corridor.

Management Actions

Until these lands are either designated wilderness or released from wilderness review status by Congress. manage existing Wilderness Study Areas within the river corridor as outlined in the "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review." These Wilderness Study Areas include the High S teens (2-85F), Little Blitzen (2-86F), Blitzen River Canyon (2-86E), and the south fork of the Donner and Blitzen River (2-85G).

CHAPTER 4
ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PLAN

Alternatives are options for managing the outstandingly remarkable values within the Donner und Blitzen River.

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

This is the present situation operating under existing land-use plans. Provide for the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values of the Donner und Blitzen River as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Alternative 2

Emphasize a higher level of protection of the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor at the expense of all other resource opportunities.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

1. Recreation Management

Alternative 1- Present Situation

Continue recreation programs established to date. The Bureau would continue to manage the river corridor in accordance with the existing Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan and the Steens Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan. Monitor recreational use so that it does not impact any of the outstandingly remarkable values. Identify these impacts and take the appropriate action to correct.

Alternative 2

A permit system would be implemented to control recreational use within the river corridor for all recreational use.

2. Grazing Management - Livestock

Alternative 1- Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Remove all livestock grazing on public lands within the river corridor through voluntary suspended non-use or a land-use plan amendment .

3. Wild-Horse Management

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the proposed action.

Alternative 2

Remove all wild-horse use on public lands within the river corridor.

4. Riparian Management

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

For a higher protection of riparian values, remove all livestock grazing and wild-horse use on public lands within the river corridor through voluntary suspended nonuse on a land-use plan amendment.

5. Fish and Wildlife Management

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Continue inventory for aquatic habitat which was started in 1991 and 1992 (complete 25 river miles).

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

For a higher protection of fish and wildlife habitat, remove all livestock grazing and wild-horse use on public lands within the river corridor through voluntary suspended nonuse or land-use plan amendment.

6. Water Quality/Water Quantity

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Continue maintenance and construction of facilities needed to use existing valid water rights.

Apply for 2.01 cfs through the State Water Resources Department for a water right to irrigate 80.4 acres of meadows within Segment B.

The 80.4 acres of meadows along the Little Blitzen River within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District would continue to be irrigated as outlined in the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District Cultural Resource Management Plan.

A monitoring system would be established for water quality throughout the river corridor. Water quality criteria would meet the minimum requirements as outlined in Section 314 of the Clean Water Act.

Alternative 2

For a higher enhancement of water quality, remove all livestock grazing and wild-horse use on public lands within the river corridor through voluntary suspended nonuse or a land-use plan amendment. To enhance water quality, monitor all other resource use such as recreational activities and roads for impacts to water quality.

7. Cultural Resource Management

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Monitor known cultural sites within the river corridor. Continue inventories on the remaining 37 miles of the river system.

The present situation will be the same as the proposed action.

Alternative 2

Same us Alternative 1.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT/ VISITOR MANAGEMENT

1. Recreation Facility Developments

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Maintain and continue improvement of the Page Springs Recreation Site.

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

No recreational facilities would be developed within the river corridor.

2. Road Maintenance

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Maintain the Steens Mountain Loop Road, Maintain and gravel the road into the Riddle Brothers Ranch.

Alternative 2

Maintain, but do not gravel the road into the Riddle Brothers Ranch.

3. Off-Highway Vehicle Use/Road Closures

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Do not close any roads to motorized vehicles within the river corridor.

Alternative 2

Close all vehicle travel routes within the river corridor to motorized vehicles except the Steens Mountain Loop Road and the road into the Riddle Brothers Ranch.

4. Trails

Alternative 1 - Present, Situation

The present situation will be the snme as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

No additional hiking, horse, or mountain bike trails would be developed within the river corridor.

5. Public Outreach

Alternative I - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

6. Search and Rescue

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

7. Law Enforcement

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

LANDOWNERSHIP

1. Private Landowners

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

If coordination does not occur, fence the public lands from the private lands within the river corridor.

2. Management Cooperation Between Agencies and Affected Parties

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

3. Land Exchanges/Purchases/Easement

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

4. Administrative Boundaries

Alternative 1 - Present Situations

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

1. Juniper Encroachment

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

2. Fire Management

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative 1.

3. Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation will be the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative I.

4. Wilderness Study Areas

Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The present situation is the same as the Proposed Plan.

Alternative 2

Same as Alternative I,

CHAPTER 5
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

There are no anticipated negative impacts to commercial forest lands. wetlands, flood plains, Wilderness Study Areas, designated Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or visual resources. Since the entire river corridor has no mining claims, mineral leases, or mineral material sites, and is withdrawn from mineral entry, there would be no impact on mineral or energy-related resources.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

1. Recreation Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Establishing the Limits of Acceptable Change us a method of monitoring existing and future trends for each riper segment would provide baseline data for controlling recreational use within the riser corridor. This would benefit tile outstandingly remarkable values and would result in an overall improved recreational experience for the visitor.

Using Special Recreation Use Permits within the river corridor for large groups, commercial, and competitive use of public lands would give the Bureau control of this type of use and allow for protection of the outstandingly remarkable values. The increased regulations would cause some inconvenience to groups.

Closing I7 miles of river corridor to mountain bikes and other mechanized equipment would have a direct impact on this type of use. The public now using these areas would be forced to find alternative locations.

Developing recreational attd educational opportunities at the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District would allow the public the positive experience Of learning about atrd experiencing an original homestead from the late 1800's.

Educational brochures and signing on low impact recreational use would result in improved use of natural resources by the public and benefit the outstandingly remarkable values and provide for a higher quality visitor experience.

Please refer to the Recreation Development/Visitor Management section for impacts on road maintenance.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts would be similar to those listed under the Proposed Plan. However, 17 miles of river corridor would not be closed to vehicular use under this alternative.

Educational brochures and signing to protect resource values within the river corridor would trot be developed and distribu fed to the recreational user, resulting itt possible damage to resource values.

Impacts from Alternative 2

A non-commercial permit system would be implemented to control all recreational use within the boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River. The recreational user would be inconvenienced through a permit system and, at times, could be denied a permit if there were no openings at the time the user was requesting a permit.

2. Grazing Management - Livestock

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Livestock grazing on public lands within the river corridor would be impacted through reductions or eliminationsin the numbers Of livestock Of changes in grazing practices. River segments B, C, and D would be impacted the most by the proposed actions, This would have a direct, economical impact ott the livestock permittee if other areas of use are not found to run the same operation as they have in the past.

Rangeland developments, such as fencing and wafer sources, could provide for enhanced management of livestock use within the Fish Creek/Big Indian Allotment and the South Steens Allotment. Improved grazing management practices would result in improved forage conditions which would then provide for more stable livestock operations.

Changing timing, season of use, and duration for livestock management within the area would have a direct impact ott the permittee and how they run their operations in the future.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described tinder impacts front the Proposed Plan except changes may not occur as quickly due to less emphasis on developing grazing system.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would have a greater impact on the livestock permittees

which now operate within the river corridor. Total elimination of cattle within the corridor and providing no other areas to compensate for loss of animal unit months would result in an economic loss to the livestock operators.

This alternative best represents the protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values.

3. Wild-Horse Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Wild horses would be impacted by reducing numbers of animals within the river corridor where their activities have a direct impact on the riparian areas. Wild-horse movement and distribution may be impacted if rangeland developments, such as fences, are used to protect the river corridor. Monitoring will occur to determine impacts to the wild and free roaming nature of the animals.

Wild horses could benefit from providing additional alternative water sources away from the river corridor. This will also keep horses out of the river corridor.

Impacts from Alternative 1

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under impacts from the Proposed Plan except changes may not occur as quickly due to less emphasis on developing grazing system.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Wild-horse use would also be impacted from this alternative. Water sources and forage would be lost within the river corridor along with the wild and free-roaming ability of the animal.

4. Riparian Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

As the riparian areas within the river corridor improve, streamside vegetation, stream channel stability, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat would be enhanced as a result of the proposed actions.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts would be similar to those described under the Proposed Plan except changes may not occur as rapidly due to a decreased emphasis on developing and implementing livestock grazing practices.

Under this alternative, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act still requires protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those described under the Proposed Plan.

5. Fish and Wildlife Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Fish and wildlife habitat would improve in direct proportion to improvement in stream channel morphology and increased density of riparian trees and shrubs along the streambanks.

The effects or impacts of irrigating the meadows on the fisheries and aquatic

habitat along the lower 3 miles of Segment B would not be determined until the hydrological study is completed.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts would be similar to those described under the Proposed Plan except improvement in habitat would be slower due to reduced emphasis on developing grazing systems.

Under this alternative, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act still requires protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those described under the present situation.

6. Water Quality/Water Quantity

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Water quality would be improved in direct proportion to improvement in channel morphology and increased density of trees and shrubs along stream bank. Also, reduced utilization of forage in the riparian zone and the upland watershed would reduce erosion and runoff from thunderstorms and snow melt, thus improving water quality and increasing baseflow of stream,

Impact from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts would be similar to those identified under the Proposed Plan,

except for improvement in water quality due to an increased emphasis on developing and implementing grazing systems.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts would be similar to those identified under the Proposed Plan.

7. Cultural Resource Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Reduced grazing along streams and in the uplands would decrease possible impacts to cultural values lying on the surface of the ground. Increased vegetation would make it harder to distinguish surface artifacts, thus providing protection from vandalism.

Use by the visiting public could cause impacts to cultural resources. A need for increased maintenance of historic structures within the river corridor may be needed.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts would be similar to those identified under the Proposed Plan except improvement would be slower.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts would he similar to those identified under the Proposed Plan.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT/-VISITOR MANAGEMENT

1. Recreation Facility Developments

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Continued maintenance of the Page Springs Recreation Site is an ongoing process and commitment. No impacts front this facility to the outstandingly remarkable values are identified.

A short-term effect OR the immediate area around Blitzert Crossittg would occur from the development and construction of a staging/parking area. By developing safe parking for six vehicles, health and safety would be ensured for the recreationist.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

These impacts would be similar to those described under the Proposed Plan for the Page Springs Recreation Site.

Impacts from Alternative 2

There would be no recreational facilities developed within the river corridor, such as the parking/staging urea at Blitzen Crossing. No short-term impacts would occur front construction of this facility; and no benefits to the visitor, such us health and safety, would occur.

2. Road Maintenance

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Stabilizing the Steens Mountain Loop Roadbed with the use of gravel and a binding agent would reduce sediment into the river corridor.

Maintenance and stabilization of the low water river crossing at Indian Creek (Segment D) would stabilize the banks and prevent erosion and siltation of the river downstream from the ford. The visitors who use the crossing would be afforded safer and more reliable access across the ford.

Maintaining the road into the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District would enhance the recreational user and provide reasonable administrative access to the site.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

This alternative would be similar to what is described in the Proposed Plan. However, since the low water river crossing would rtot be maintained artd stabilized, continued erosion and siltation of the river would occur and some limited health nrtd safety impacts to the visitor could occur.

Impacts from Alternative 2

These impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative 1.

3. Off-Road Vehicle Use/Road Closure

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Al this time, no impacts to motorized vehicle use within the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District are

identified. Access is closed to the public for motorized recreational me, and administrative and ranching use is kept to a minimum.

Closing 1 mile of road to motorized use in Segment A. which enters the river corridor near Big Springs. would enhance the primitive recreational experience for the visitor.

Visitors using all terrain vehicles, motor bikes, etc. across this portion of the canyon would be directly impacted and would have to find other areas to use.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Off-road use would continue tv occur by not closing 1 mile of road to motorized use near Big Springs. There is no roadbed along the one-quarter mile of river in the bottom of the canyon. Motorized use would occur indiscriminately along this 0.25-mile section and have a direct impact on the riparian area.

Primitive recreational use within this area would not be enhanced with continued motorized use of this area.

Impacts from Alternative 2

The impacts from this alternative would be similar to that described in the Proposed Plan for the 1 mile of road closure in Segment A.

This alternative would also close the road which crosses Segment D and is called the low water riser crossing. This would deny motorized access to a large block of public lands irt the South Steens which offer a variety of recreational opportunities. The road access is also needed for ranching and administrative use by the Bureau.

4. Trails

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Developing it 2.25-mile interpretive trail through the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District would enhance the recreational user through education about an original homestead on Steens Mountain. No actual trail construction would occur, The trail would be laid out as a "corridor concept" like the Oregon High Desert National Recreation Trail.

The impacts of closing 17 miles of the river corridor to mountain bikes within Little Blitzen, Big, and Little Indian Canyons would bc the same as described under the impacts to Recreation Management.

Impacts from Alternative I - Present Situation

The impacts. from this alternative would be similar tv those described under the Proposed Plan, except for the closing of i 7 miles of river corridor to mountain bikes.

Impacts from Alternative 2

No impacts from this alternative are identified. Adequate trails exist at this time throughout the river corridor.

5. Public Outreach

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Education about the different outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor would help protect and enhance

these values, Signs will be designed so they do not impact the naturalness of the area.

Impact from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from Alternative 1 would be the same as described above.

Impact from Altemative 2

Opportunities would be lost by not developing any new media to educate the public on the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor, or any other story which the Bureau of Land Management would like to tell.

6. Search and Rescue

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

No impacts from this action to the Proposed Plan are identified.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from Alternative 1 would be the same as described above.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from Altemative 2 would be the same as described above.

7. Law Enforcement

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

To provide more coverage within the Donner und Blitzen River, an additional workload would occur.

Resources would incur benefits such as increased patrols on known cultural resource sites, enforcement of livestock grazing, off-road vehicles, and recreational USC.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from Alternative 1 would be the same as described above in the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from Alternative 2 would be the same as described above in the Proposed Plan.

LANDOWNERSHIP

1. Private Landowners

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

No impacts from this action to the Proposed Plan are identified. Good communication and cooperation between agencies and landowners would allow for better working conditions and enhancement of the natural resources within the river corridor.

Impacts from Alternative I - Present Situation

Coordination with the private landowners within the river corridor is important. A lack of coordination between the Bureau of Land Management and the private landowners would result in poor understanding of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Fencing public lands from private lands within the river corridor would not

allow for complete protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values within the system, Different levels of management could occur between the public and private lands.

2. Management Cooperation between Agencies and Affected Parties

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Better communication would result in a better understanding, cooperation, and management of the river corridor.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be similar to those descrikd under the Proposed Plan, except that the requirement for one annual meeting is eliminated.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described in Alternative 1.

3. Land Exchanges/Purchases/Easement

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

There are no major impacts identified from land exchanges/purchases/easements under the Proposed Plan. These actions would be undertaken only with willing parties with exchanges being the preferred approach,

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from the alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan,

4. Administrative Boundaries

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

No identified impacts from this alternative to the administrative boundaries are identified. Boundaries become final with the approval of the river management plan.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 7

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

OTHERMANAGEMENT ACTIONS/ CONSIDERATIONS

1. Juniper Encroachment

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

This alternative would allow the use of fire as a management tool to control the advancement of juniper within the river corridor. Impacts would be a short-term, visual disturbance immediately after the burn; but by the following spring. the area would be green with grasses and forbs.

Aspens and wet areas would be enhanced in areas where-juniper is choking out traditional stands and drying up springs. The outstandingly remarkable values would be enhanced by this management action.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

2. Fire Management

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

Not permitting retardant drops within 0.125 mile of the river boundary would keep retardant out of the water. Aquatic habitat would not be harmed by this action.

Mechanized equipment would have limited access to the river corridor by roads; and where this equipment can be used, it would protect structures such as at the Riddle Brothers Ranch.

Because of topography, hand crews would be used in place of mechanized equipment.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

Impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

Impacts from this alternative would be described under the Proposed Plan.

3. Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

No impacts from this action to the Proposed Plan are identified.

Impacts from Alternative 1 - Present Situation

The impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

The impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

4. Wilderness Study Areas

Impacts from the Proposed Plan

No impacts from this action to the Proposed Plan are identified. Congress would either designate wilderness areas on the Steens or release these areas from Wilderness Study Area status.

If all or portions of the river corridor become designated wilderness, the most restrictive protection, from either Wilderness designation or Wild and Scenic River designation, would prevail.

Impacts from Alternative 1- Present Situation

The impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

Impacts from Alternative 2

The impacts from this alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Plan.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative impact of long-term management would be to improve soil conditions, soil stability, streambank stability, plant density, increased composition of climax vegetation in the plant community, improved water quality, improved fisheries, improved wildlife habitat, improved riparian values, and improved aesthetics. These improved values all add up to an improvement in the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor.

Management of recreational use including off-highway vehicle restrictions and proper utilization of forage by wild horses would result in similar improvements in riparian values. Short-term impacts to livestock and wild horses should be mitigated by improved forage conditions and the addition of water sources away from the river corridor. This would also result in dispersed utilization away from the river corridor.

CHAPTER 6
COST AND IMPLEMENTATION

FISCAL REQUIREMENTS

The following are estimated costs over a five year period based on 1992 dollar values. The intent is to implement management actions as soon as funding becomes secured through the budget process. Priorities are based on resource and user requirements, guidelines established under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and other commitments and priorities established.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT [1]	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
1. Day use area/parking for six vehicles at Blitzen Crossing	$ 10,000	$10,000			
2. IndianCreek Ford/Stabilization	10,000				
3. Riddle Brothers Ranch Cultural Resource Management Plan					
*Includes maintenance and graveling of 2 miles of access road	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
•Small parking area for 8-10 vehicles		8,000			
*Stabilization of historic structures	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
•Interpretive trail development - 2.25 miles	1,000	1,500			
*Irrigation system for meadows	5,000	5,000			
•Fish screen		8,000			
4. Signing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
5. Kiosk	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
6. Fencing	10,000	10,000	5,000		
Sub-Total	$59,500	$66,000	$31,000	$26,000	$16,000

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT [1]	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
Annual Operation and Maintenance [2]					
1. Page Springs Campground	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
2. Day-use areas	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
3. Back country cleanup	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
4. Signs	500	500	500	500	500
5. Kiosk	500	500	500	500	500
6. Road maintenance (3 miles)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
7. Low water ford on Indian Creek	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sub-Total	$10,500	$10,500	$10,500	$10,500	$10,500
Annual Program Maintenance [3]					
1. Monitoring river corridor for all resources (WMs cost)	$34,000	$34,000	$34,000	$34,000	$34,000
2. Information/education programs	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
3. Campground host at Page Springs/Riddle Brothers Ranch	500	500	500	1,000	1,000
4. Vehicle cost	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
5. Law Enforcement (WMs cost)	3,400	3,400	3,400	6,800	6,800
Sub-Total	$47,400	$47,400	$47,400	$51,300	$51,300
Equipment Cost [4]					
1. Water quality monitoring equipment	$2,500	$2,500			
2. Miscellaneous equipment (cameras, radios, Limits of Acceptable Change startup, etc.)	2,000	2,000	2,000		
Sub-Total	$4,500	$4,500	$2,000		
TOTAL	$121,900	$128,400	$89,100	$87,800	$77,800

[1]Costs related to survey, design, and construction are included in these figures.
[2]This category also includes administrative and labor costs associated with maintenance of facilities within the river corridor.
[3]Funding for annual program management includes a variety of elements, which are the most important, for yearly program management for the Donner und Blitzen River.
[4]Equipment necessary for support of the Blitzen River Management Plan.

CHAPTER 7
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS

Dormer und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River
Legal Description - Administrative Boundary

Legal description of proposed administrative boundary commencing at the headwaters of the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen (referred to as Segment C on the map) and on the cast-west centerline between Sections 19, 20, T. 32 S., R. 32-1/2 E., and extending downstream to the section line between 8 and 17. T. 32 S., R. 32-1/2 E., then back to point of origin.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
35 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	20	Beginning at the section corner common to Sections 17. 18. 19 and 20. Thencc heading east 0.3 mile, thence heading northeasterly 0.36 mile to a point intersecting the section lines between Sections 20 and 17.
35 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	17	Thence heading north 0.25 mile, thence heading east 0.50 mile, thence heading northwesterly 0.36 mile, thence heading north on the section line 0.34 mile.
35 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	18	Thence heading east 0.25 mile. thence heading 0.12 mile north to section line.
35 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	7	Thence heading north 1.25 miles, hence heading northwesterly 0.38 mile to section line.
35 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	8	Thence heading northwesterly 0.53 mile, thence north 0.12 mile to the section line.
35 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	5	Thence heading northeasterly 0.28 mile, thence heading west 0.30 mile to the section line between Sections 5 and 4. Thence heading west 0.75 mile along the section line between Sections 9 and 4.
35 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	4	Thence heading north 0.50 mile, thence heading east 0.75 mile to section line. Thence north along section line. Thence north along section line 0.25 mile, thence northeasterly 0.27 mile to section line, thence east 0.25 mile.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	33	Thence heading north 0.25 mile, thence heading northeasterly 0.55 mile to section line, thence heading north 0.12 mile, thence heading northeasterly 0.57 mile to the section line. thence heading north 0.25 milt: to section corner.
34 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	27	Thence heading northeasterly 0.70 mile. thence heading north 0.50 mile to section line.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	22	Thence heading northwesterly 0.36 mile, thence heading west 0.25 mile to section line.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	21	Thence heading west 1.0 mile to section line.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	20	Thence heading along the east rim of the Blitzen River Canyon for 1.13 miles.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	17	Thence continuing along the east rim of the river canyon for 1.25 miles.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	7	Thence continuing along the east rim of the river canyon for 0.25 mile. Thence east 0.12 mile to section line. Thence north 0.26 mile along section line.
				Refer to Segment D on the map
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	8	Thence east 1.0 mile to section line.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	9	Thence continuing east 1.0 mile through center of section.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	10	Thence heading northeasterly 1.10 miles to section corner.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	2	Thence heading north 0.12 mile. Thence heading east 1.0 mile to section line. Thence heading south 0.12 mile to section corner.
				Refer to Segment E on the map
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	12	Thence heading east 0.25 mile along section line.Thence heading southeasterly 0.75 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	29	Thence continuing southeasterly 0.36 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	32	Thence continuing southeasterly 0.36 mile. Then heading east 0.50 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	33	Thence continuing east 1.0 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	34	Thence continuing east 0.50 mile to center of section. Thence heading north 0.25 mile section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	27	Thence continuing north 0.25 mile. Thence heading west 0.50 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	28	Thence continuing west 0.75 mile. Thence heading northwesterly 0.32 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	29	Thence heading west 0.50 mile to center of section. Thence heading northwesterly 0.53 mile to section line. Thence heading north 0.25 mile to section corner.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	1	Thence heading west 1.0 mile through center of section to section line. Thence heading north 0.50 mile to section corner.
				Refer to Segment D on the map
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	36	Thence continuing north 0.25 mile along section line. Thence heading east 0.50 mile, thence southeasterly 0.53 mile to section line.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	20	Thence heading east 0.50 mile to center of section. Thence heading southeasterly 0.55 mile to section line.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	31	Thence continuing southeasterly 0.34 mile to section line. Thence heading east 0.75 mile to section corner.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	27	Thence heading south 0.25 mile along section line. Thence heading west 1.0 mile to section line, Thence heading north 0.25 mile to section corner.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	26	Thence heading east 1.0 mile along the top of Section 26 to section corner.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	23	Thence heading north 0.85 mile to the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road. Thence heading northwesterly 0.25 mile along the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road to section line. Thence head west 0.75 mile to section corner.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	22	Thence heading south 0.12 mile along section line. Thence heading west 1.25 miles along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	21	Thence continuing west 0.12 mile along the North Rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	16	Thence continuing west 1.25 miles along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	17	Thence continuing west 1.25 miles along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	21	Thence continuing west 0.12 mile along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	16	Thence continuing west 1.25 miles along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	17	Thence continuing west 1.25 miles along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	36	Thence continuing west 0.25 mile along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	25	Thence continuing west 1.0 mile along the north rim of the Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	26	Thence continuing west 0.50 mile along the north rim of Big Indian Canyon.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	35	Thence continuing south 1.35 miles along the west rim of the Big Indian Canyon to junction of the southern portion of Steens Mountain Loop Road.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	2	Thence continuing southeasterly 1.25 miles along the southern portion of Steens Mountain Loop Road. Thence heading south 0.3-1 mile to center of the section. Thence heading west 0.50 mile to section line.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	3	Thence heading southwesterly 1.07 miles to section corner.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	4, 5, 6	Thence heading west 2.25 miles along the southern boundary of Sections 4, 5, and 6.
				Refer to Segment C on the map
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	7	Thence heading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading west 0.67 mile to section line. Thence heading north 0.25 mile along section line to section corner.
33 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	1, 36	Thence heading west 0.50 mile along section line. Thence leading north 0.50 mile to center of section. Thence heading west to rim of Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading north 2.75 miles to confluence of Little Blitzen River. Thence heading east 0.84 mile to section line.
				Refer to Segment B on the map
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	31	Thence continuing east 0.40 mile to center of section. Thence heading southeasterly 0.87 mile to section corner.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	32	Thence heading east 1.0 mile along the south boundary of Section 32.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	33	Thence heading northeasterly 1.21 miles to section line.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	34	Thence heading east 1.0 mile to section line.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	35, 26 25	Thence heading north 0.17 mile along section line to south rim of Little Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading east 2.25 miles along the south rim of Little Blitzen Canyon to section line between Sections 25 and 8.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	8, 17 16	Thence continuing east 2.25 miles along south rim of Little Blitzen Canyon to section line between Sections 16 and 15.
33 S.	33 E.	W.M.	15, 14 13, 12 11, 10 9, 8, 5	Thence heading southeasterly 0.59 mile. Thence heading east 0.75 mile. Thence heading north 0.50 mile. Thence heading east 1.25 miles to east end of the Little Blitzen River Canyon.
				Thence continuing 1.0 mile around the headwall of Little Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading north 0.25 mile. Thence heading west 1.50 miles to section line between Sections 10 and 11. Thence continuing west 3.25 miles to section line between Sections 5 and 24, along the north rim of Little Blitzen River Canyon.
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	24, 23 26, 27 28, 33 32, 31	Continuing west 4.0 miles along the north rim of Little Blitzen River Canyon to center of section. Thence heading west 0.34 mile to center of section. Thence heading south 0.75 mile into Section 33. Thence heading west 0.25 mile. Thence heading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading west 1.25 miles to section line. Thence heading north 0.75 mile along section line

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
				Thence heading west 1 .O mile to section line. Thence heading south 0.25 mile along section line to section comer.
33 S.	32-K E.	W.M.	25	Thence heading west 1.0 mile along the south boundary of Section 25 to confluence with the Blitzen River Canyon.
				Refer to Segment A on the map
33 s.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	26, 27 22, 23 22, 15 14, 15 10, 9, 1	Thence heading north 9.50 miles along the eat rim of Blitzen River Canyon to section line between Sections 3 and 33.
32 S.	32-K E.	W.M.	33	Thence heading north 0.50 mile. Thence heading northeasterly 0.33 mill: to south rim of Fish Creek Canyon.
				Refer to Segment F on the map.
32 s.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	34, 35	Thence heading east 2.0 miles along the south rim of Fish Creek to intersection of T. 32 S., and T. 33 S. township line.
33 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	2, 1	Thence continuing cast 0.50 mile to intersection of township line between T. 32 S.. and T. 33 S.
32 s.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	36	Thence continuing east 0.25 mile along south rirn of Fish Creek Canyon to township line between T. 32 S. and T. 33 S.
33 s.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	1	Thence continuing east 0.50 mile along the south rim of Fish Creek Canyon to section line.
33 s.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	6, 5 3, 10 11, 12	Thence continuing east 1.50 miles along south rim of Fish Creek to where rim ends, Thence continuing east 1.17 miles to section line. Thence heading southeasterly 0.84 mile to section comer. Thenceheading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading cast 2.75 miles. Thenceheading southeasterly 0.36 mile to section line. Thence continuing east 1.0 mile to township line between T. 33 S., and T. 32-1/2 S.
32-1/2 S.	33 E.	W.M.	32, 33	Thence heading southeasterly 1.09 miles to section lint between Sections 32 and 33. Thence continuing southeasterly 0.55 mile to township line T. 32-1/2 S. and T. 33 S.
33 s.	33 E.	W.M.	4, 3	Thence heading southeasterly 0.37 mile to center of section. Thence heading east 1.0 mile to center of Section 3. Thence heading north 0.09 mile to the northern portion of Steens Mountain Loop Road. Thence heading northwesterly 0.50 mile along the northern portion of the Loop Road to township line.
32-1/2 s.	33 E.	W.M.	34, 33	Thence continuing northwesterly 1.50 miles along the northern portion of the Loop Road to section line. Thence heading west 0.45 mile to section line. Thence heading north 0.25 mile along section line. Thence heading west 0.25 mile. Thence heading north 0.25 mile. Thence heading west 0.75 mile to section line.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
33 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	1, 3. 3, 3	Thence heading northwesterly 0.50 mile. Thence heading west 1.50 miles to section line. Thence heading north 0.11 mile. Thence heading west 0.50 mile. Thence heading north 0.11 mile to center of section. Thence heading west 0.25 mile. Thence heading north 0.25 mile. Thence heading northwesterly 0.50 mile to township line.
32 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	5, 6	Thence continuing south 0.12 mile to north rim of Fish Creek Canyon. Thence continuing west 1.25 mile along the north rim of Fish Creek Canyon.
33 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	1	Thence continuing west 0.25 mile along the north rim of Fish Creek Canyon to section line.
32 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	36, 35 34, 33 28, 20 17	Thence continuing west 3.50 miles along the north rim of Fish Creek Canyon to confluence of Blitzen River between Sections 33 and 28.
				Refer to Segment A on the map
				Thence continuing north 3.0 miles along the east rim of Blitzen River Canyon to center of Section 17. Thence heading east 0.25 mile. Thence heading north 0.50 mile to section line. Thence heading west 0.50 mile to road by Camper Corral. This is the northern boundary of the Wild and Scenic River adjacent to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
32 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	17, 18 19, 20 29, 28 33	Thence continuing south 1.0 mile along jeep trail to section line between Sections 18 and 19.
				Thence heading east 0.11 mile to section corner. Thence heading south 1.50 miles along section line between Sections 19 and 20. Then heading east 1.09 miles to west rim of Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading south 4.0 miles along the west rim of Blitzen River Canyon to township line between T. 32 S. and T. 33 S.
33 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	4, 9, 10	Thence heading south 1.0 mile along the west rim of Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading west 0.50 mile to section line. Thence heading south 0.25 mile to section corner. Thence heading southeasterly 0.50 mile to west rim of Blitzen River Canyon.
				Thence heading south 1.0 mile along west rim of Blitzen River Canyon to section corner. Thence heading east 0.11 mile. Thence heading north 0.21 miles to canyon rim. Thence continuing south 2.25 miles to section line between Sections 15 and 22. Thence continuing west 0.12 mile to section corner. Thence heading south 0.25 mile along section line. Thence heading east 0.25 mile to canyon rim. Thence heading south 1.0 mile along west rim of Blitzen River Canyon rim. Thence heading east 0.25 mile to canyon rim. Thence heading south 0.25 mile along canyon rim. Thence heading west 0.11 mile. Thence heading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading east 0.50 mile to canyon rim. Thence heading south 0.36 mile to section corner. Thence heading east 0.25 mile to canyon rim. Thence heading south 2.25 miles along Blitzen River Canyon rim to township line between T. 33 S. and T. 34 S.

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	
			Refer to Segment C on the map	
34 S.	32-1/2 E.	W.M.	2, 1	Thence continuing south 0.11 mile. Thence continuing east 0.34 mile to canyon rim. Thence heading south 1.0 mile along west rim Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading west 0.09 mile. Thence hcnding south 0.50 mile. Thence heading southeasterly 0.34 mile to center of Section 12. Thence heading east 0.50 mile to section line between Sections 12 and 7. Thence heading south 0.25 mile along section line.
34 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	7, 18 17, 20 29, 28 33, 32	Thence continuing east 0.67 mile to west rim of Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading south 3.0 miles along west rim of Blitzen River Canyon. Thence heading south 0.23 mile to section line between Sections 20 and 29. Thence heading east 0.25 mile to section comer. Thence heading south 0.1 I mile along section line. Thence heading east I. 1 I miles. Thence heading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading southwesterly 0.86 mile to section line between Sections 38 and 33.
35 S.	32-3/4 E.	W.M.	5, 7 18, 19 20	Thence continuing southwesterly 3.0 miles to section line between Sections 5 and 6. Thence heading southwesterly 1.06 miles. Thence heading south 0.50 mile. Thcncc heading southeasterly 0.34 mile to center of Section 28. Thence heading south 0.25 mile. Thence heading southeasterly 0.34 mile to section line between Sections 18 and 19. Thcncc heading east 0.25 mile to point of origin.

APPENDIX B
SPECIAL STATUS, RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
DONNER UND BLITZEN RIVER WILD AND SCENIC AREA

SPECIES	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATUS	OREGON DEPT. FISH AND WILDLIFE STATUS	OREGON DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE STATUS	OREGON NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
MAMMALS				
Wolverine		SP		2
California bighorn sheep	C2			4
Pacific Western big-cared bat	c2	SC		2
Spottedhat	C2			2
BIRDS				
Bald eagle	LT	LT		1
American peregrine falcon	LE	LE		1
Northern goshawk		SC		3
Swainsons hawk		SV		3
Ferruginous hawk	C2	SV		3
Burrowing owl		SC		3
* Trumpeter swan (introduced in Oregon)				
Barrow's golden eye		SP		4
Bufflehead		SP		2
Greater sandhill crane		SV		4
American white pelican		SV		2
White-faced ibis	C2	s v		4
Western sage grouse	C2	SV		4
Yellow-billed cuckoo		SC		2
Bobolink		SC		3
Lewis woodpecker		SC		3
Western bluebird		SV		4
Black rosy finch (only found near summit)		SP		3
AMPHIBIANS				
Spotted frog		SC		
FISH				
Redband trout	C2	s v		3
Malheur Mottled Sculpin	C2	SC		3
SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES LIST				
Cusick horsemint				2
* Slimleaf onion				
S ierra onion				2
Lanceleaved grapefern				2

SPECIES	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATUS	OREGON DEPT. FISH AND WILDLIFE STATUS	OREGON DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE STATUS	OREGON NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Gray moonwort				2
Pinnate grapefern				2
Little grapefern				4
* Back sedge				
New sedge				2
Steens Mountain paintbrush			SC	1
* Peck thistle				
Sierra spring-beauty				4
Hayden cymopterus				2
Cusick draba				4
Moss gentian				2
Slender gentian				2
One-flowered goldenweed				4
* Bolander quillwort				
Least rush				3
Alpine lily				3
* Small-leaved lupine				
Nodding melic				2
* Copelands owlclover				
Davidson penstemon				4
Drummond willow				4
Wedge-leaf saxifrage				2
Weakstemmed stonecrop				4
Scapose catchfly				4

*No status as of yet, but considered a sensitive species.

Definitions

Endangered taxa are those which are in danger of becoming extinct within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Threatened taxa are those likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

LE = Listed Endangered. Taxa listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act, or by the State of Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife under the Oregon Endangered Species Act of 1987.

LT = Listed Threatened. Taxa listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Oregon Department of Agriculture, or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as Threatened.

SC = State Critical. Species for which listing as threatened or endangered is pending; or those for which listing as threatened or endangered may be appropriate if immediate conservation actions are not taken. Also considered critical are some peripheral species which are at risk throughout their range and some disjunct populations.

SV = State Vulnerable. Species for which listing as threatened or endangered is not believed to be imminent and can be avoided through continued or expanded use of adequate protective measures and monitoring. In some cases, the population is sustainable, and protective measures are being implemented; in others, the population may be declining and improved protective measures are needed to maintain sustainable populations over time.

SP = State Peripheral or Naturally Rare. Peripheral species refer to those whose Oregon populations are on the edge of their range. Naturally rare species are those which had low population numbers historically in Oregon because of naturally limiting factors. Maintaining the status quo for the habitats and populations of these species is a minimum requirement. Disjunct populations of several species which occur in Oregon should not be confused with peripheral.

C2 = Candidate 2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidates which need additional information in order to propose as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Oregon Natural Heritage Program List (ONHP)
1. Taxa threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout the entire range.
2. Taxa threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct in Oregon.
3. Review list for species where more information is needed before status can be determined.
4. Taxa of concern but not currently threatened or endangered.

APPENDIX C
UNIQUE VEGETATIVE AREAS FOR THE DONNER UND BLITZEN RIVER

Segment	Description
A	Page Springs riparian zone • Extensive native sedge meadow • Diversity of riparian plant species • Black cottonwood dominated riparian area
B	Meadow/riparian complex at Riddle Brothers Ranch • Extensive bottomland • Black cottonwood dominated riparian zone • Diverse stream morphology Rooster Comb Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern • Designated Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern • Mountain mahogany/bluebunch wheatgrass community • Numerous sensitive plant species Little Blitzen Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern • Designated Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern for five plant community cells • Numerous sensitive plant species
C	South Fork Canyon riparian zone • Extensive low elevation canyon riparian community • Sensitive plant species Huffman Camp meadow . Low elevation aspen • Good condition uplands • Meadow South Fork headwaters • Springs • High elevation wetlands • Low elevation wetlands
D	Big Indian mahogany • Good condition mountain mahogany cotnmunities including mountain mahogany/ mountain snowberry, mountain mahogany/bluebunch wheatgrass, mountain mahogany/bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue, mountain mahogany-western juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass and mountain mahogany-quaking aspen/mountain snowberry-Idahfescue-bluwildrye

Segment	Description
	Big Indian headwaters • Linear terraced wetlands • Sensitive plant species
	Big Indian cirque • Native cirque wetlands • Alpine ponds • Sensitive plant species
E	Little Indian riparian zone • Riparian habitat including ferns and other west Cascade species • Western birch dominant
	Little Indian beaver pond area • Good condition linear wetlands • Aspen/willow forest · Sensitive plant species
	Little Indian side slopes • Mountain snowberry/mountain big sagebrush community • Mountain mahogany community • Aspen community
	Little Indian headwaters . Diverse wetlands • Subalpine hillslopes wetlands . Sensitive plant species
	Fish Creek beaver ponds • Extensive aspen forests • Meadows, ponds created by beaver ponds • Numerous wetlands • Sensitive plant species
	Headwaters of Fish Creek • Meadows in a gentle basin • Sensitive plant species

APPENDIX D
STREAM CONDITION CRITERIA

Habitat condition ratings were obtained by walking streams artd surveying their physical and biological characteristics. Habitat condition ratings were based on many factors. Key factors included the percent of the stream shaded, vegetation species composition and vigor, the aburtdarrce of these species, the intensity of livestock use within the riparian zone, and the degree of grazing use on riparian species, presence of dead trees and shrubs, the stability of strearnlands, gullying, sedimentation of pools, stream meandering, stream gradient, and other factors.

Habitat condition ratings were based on all factors. No single factor was keyed. Indicators of habitat quality are irtterrelated and the biotic potential of each stream segment must be considered. The characteristics of fhe four conditions of stream habitat follows:

Excellent Condition

Shading streambank cover exceeds 50 percent, both undersfory species and shade providing species vigorous with a mixture of age classes and more than 90 percent of streambanks stable.

Good Condition

Shading streambank cover and understory species usually reducedfrorn excellent condition habitat, more than 80 percent of streambanks stable, and a mixture of age classes.

Fair Condition

Streambank plant species noticeably reduced in diversity, reproduction, and productivity from habitat in good and excellent condition. Shading streambank cover usually less than 20 percent. Marty streambanks are unstable with little vegetative healing of eroded banks.

Poor Condition

Typical riparian shrub plant species missing or sparse. Shading streambank cover commonly 0-10 percent. Most of the erodible banks are unstable with almost no healing by vegetation. Often, the area has an encroachment of upland plants, such as big sagebrush, into the riparian zone, and a water table that has been lowered due to erosion.

APPENDIX E
PLANNING PARTICIPANTS
SOUTH STEENS WORKING GROUP

Bureau of Land **Management**

Management Participation

Michael T. Green, District Manager
Donald R. Cain, Associate District Manager
Victor E. Pritchard, Assistant District Manager, Resources
Glenn T. Patterson, Andrew Resource Area Manager

Staff Participation

Steven W. Anderson, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner
Mark L. Armstrong, Public Affairs Officer
Russell G. Bentley, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
James G. Buchanan, Jr., Range Conservationist
Robert F. Bums, Fishery Biologist
Bruce M. Crespin, Archaeologist
Thresa M. Geisler, Geologist
Richard D. Hall, Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin B. Hamilton, Aviation Management Specialist
Pamela L. Keller, Geographical Information System/Land Information System Coordinator
Curtis W. Leet, Soil Scientist
Fred Y. McDonald, Natural Resource Specialist
Scott A. Moore, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Janis Reimers, Botanist
Lucille M. Roberts, Editorial Assistant
Guy R. Sheeter, Wildlife Biologist
Mark W. Sherboume, Realty Specialist
David C. Swisher, Range Technician
David E. Vickstrom, Natural Resource Specialist
David R. Ward, Range Conservationist

SOUTH STEENS WORKING GROUP

Name	*Affiliation*
Jim Buchanan	Range Conservationist, Bureau of Land Management
Mary Hanson	Oregon Environmental Council
Ron Harding	Wild Horse Specialist, Bureau of Land Management

Kate Joost	Oregon River Council
Jim Lemos	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cathy MacDonald	The Nature Conservancy
Rick Miller	Oregon Trout - Range Science
Fred Otley	Rancher
Dan Sanders	Roaring Springs Ranch, Owners

APPENDIX F
INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Wild and Scenic Rivers
Number on List: 221

1000 Friends of Oregon	*Attn: Mr. Paul Ketchum*	*Portland*	*97204*
Advisory Council - Historic Preservation		*Golden*	*80401*
American Fisheries Society	*Mr. Carl Sullivan, Executive Director*	*Bethesda*	*20814*
American Fisheries Society	*Oregon Chapter*	*Corvallis*	*97339*
American Forest Council		*Portland*	*97201*
Amoco Production Company	*Roberta Anderson*	*Denver*	*80202*
Associated Oregon Industries		*Salem*	*97301*
Association of NW Steelheaders		*Milwaukie*	*97222*
Association of NW Steelheaders		*Salem*	*97302*
Association of O&C Counties		*Roseburg*	*97470*
Association of Oregon Archaeologists	*Attn: Tom Connolly*	*Portland*	*97240*
Association of Oregon Counties	*Mr. Gil Riddell*	*Salem*	*97309*
Honorable Les AuCoin	*Member, U.S. House of Representatives*	*Portland*	*97210*
Central Oregon Audubon	*Mr. Glen Van Cise*	*Bend*	*97701*
National Audubon Society	*Mr. Chuck Sisco*	*Olympia*	*98507*
Audubon Society of Portland		*Portland*	*97210*
Audubon Society of Portland	*Attn: Ms. Linda S. Craig*	*Portland*	*97210*
Portland Audubon Society		*Portland*	*97201*
Frank & Jeannine Bettencourt		*Riverside*	*97917*
Mr. Clifford Bove		*Glen Cove*	*11542*
Burns Paiute Tribe	*Tribal Chairperson*	*Burns*	*97720*
Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants		*Oak Grove*	*97267*
Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants		*Portland*	*97213*
Central Oregon Community College	*Dr. Wayne Eshelman, Science Dept.*	*Bend*	*97701*
Mr. Larry Chitwood		*Bend*	*97702*
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Comm.	*Dale McCullough*	*Portland*	*97232*
Ms. Marilyn M. Couture		*Vancouver*	*98665*
Honorable Peter DeFazio	*c/o Bob Warren*	*Eugene*	*97401*
Defenders of Wildlife	*Ms. Sara Vickerman*	*Portland*	*97201*
Mr. Kendall Derby		*Corvallis*	*97330*
Desert Trail Association	*Mr. Ross Edginton, President*	*Lake Oswego*	*97034*
Mr. Joseph A. Di Bartolomeo		*Astoria*	*97103*
Mr. Harvey Dunbar		*Frenchglen*	*97736*
Eastern Oregon Mining Association	*Mr. R. Grissom*	*Baker City*	*97814*
Ellingson Lumber	*Mr. Robert P. Ellingson, III*	*Baker City*	*97814*
Mr. Charles Engel		*Bend*	*97702*
Environmental Protection Agency		*Portland*	*97204*
Environmental Protection Agency	*Director, Office of Environmental Review*	*Washington*	*20460*
Environmental Protection Agency	*Environmental Review Coord. Region 10*	*Seattle*	*98101*
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	*Director, Office of Elec. Power Reg.*	*Washington*	*20246*
Federal Energy Regulator Commission	*Div. of Pro. Comp. and Administration*	*Washington*	*20426*
Mr. John L. Frewing		*Portland*	*97202*
Friends of Earth		*Seattle*	*98105*
Mr. Gerry Fullerton		*Beaverton*	*97005*
Georgia Pacific Corporation	*Attn: Larry Zuller*	*Portland*	*97204*

Dr. Sarah Greene		*Portland*	*97208*
Hammond Ranches, Inc.	*c/o Dwight Hammond*	*Diamond*	*97722*
Honorable Mark Hatfield	*United States Senator*	*Portland*	*97204*
The High Desert Museum	*Mr. Donald M. Kerr, President*	*Bend*	*97702*
Izaak Walton League of America		*Portland*	*97225*
Izaak Walton League, Oregon Division	*Attn: Mr. Stephen Larson*	*Portland*	*97230*
Mr. Kenneth L. Jones		*Springfield*	*97478*
Honorable Mike Kopetski		*Salem*	*97301*
Mr. Mike Lohman		*Portland*	*97212*
Mr. Robert Main		*Coquille*	*97423*
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz		*Los Angeles*	*90008*
Mr. R. C. Matzek		*Prineville*	*97754*
Mazamas	*Conservation Committee*	*Portland*	*97266*
Mazamas	*Mr. Bob Powne*	*Portland*	*97209*
V.R. Morgan and R.C. Young		*Mill City*	*97360*
Ed Morlan		*Winnemucca*	*89445*
National Marine Fisheries Service	*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.*	*Seattle*	*98115*
National Organization for River Sports	*Attn: Mr. John Garren, Regional Rep.*	*Portland*	*97219*
National Organization for River Sports	*Attn: Ms. Mary McCurdy*	*Colorado Springs*	*80904*
National Wildlife Federation	*Attn: Pete Frost, Counsel*	*Portland*	*97205*
National Wildlife Federation	*Mr. Phillip Schneider*	*Portland*	*97225*
Native Plant Society	*Attn: Franklin Fitz*	*McKenzie Bridge*	*97413*
Native Plant Society of Oregon	*Byron Boyce*	*Oregon City*	*97045*
Native Plant Society of Oregon	*Mr. Ed Alverson*	*Corvallis*	*97331*
Native Plant Society of Oregon	*S.G. Garrett, M.D., Conservation Chair*	*Bend*	*97701*
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.	*Public lands Institute*	*Washington*	*20005*
The Nature Conservancy	*c/o Catherine MacDonald*	*Portland*	*97210*
The Nature Conservancy	*Dick Vander Schaaf, Public Lands Coord.*	*Portland*	*97210*
Jack and Sue Neulist-Coelho		*Rogue River*	*97537*
Northwest Environmental Defense Center	*Karl Anuta*	*Portland*	*97219*
Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club		*Vancouver*	*98668*
Northwest Mining Association	*Mr. Andy Johnson*	*Spokane*	*99201*
Northwestern Petroleum Association		*Portland*	*97228*
Mr. Bill Oberteuffer		*Elgin*	*97827*
Oregon Cattlemen's Association		*Portland*	*97232*
Oregon Council of Rock & Minerals Clubs	*Mr. Ronald Stockoff, President*	*Klamath Falls*	*97601*
Oregon Dept. of Economic Development	*Ms. Laila F. Cully, Manager*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept. of Energy	*c/o Alex Sifford*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	*Regional Manager, Central Region*	*Bend*	*97701*
Oregon Dept. of Land Cons. & Dev.	*Mr. James B. Knight*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept. of Transportation		*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept. of Transportation	*State Parks & Recreation*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept of Water Resources	*Attn: Mr. Bill Fujii, Rec. Coordinator*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	*Marc Liverman, Grassland Hab. Biologist*	*Portland*	*97207*
Oregon Division of State Lands	*Ed Zajonc, Director*	*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Environmental Council	*Mr. John Charles, Director*	*Portland*	*97201*
Oregon Equestrian Trails		*Milwaukie*	*97222*
Oregon Farm Bureau	*Attn: Mr. Klaus J. Hoehna, Reg. Mgr.*	*Monument*	*97864*
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation		*Salem*	*97302*
Oregon Forest Industries Council		*Salem*	*97309*
Oregon Guides and Packers Association	*Attn: Mr. Ken Wick*	*Joseph*	*97846*
Oregon Hunters Association	*Attn: Mr. Ken Jacobson, Exec. Director*	*Bend*	*97708*
Oregon Hunters Association	*Kelly Smith, President*	*Bend*	*97708*
Oregon League of Women Voters		*Salem*	*97302*
Oregon Natural Desert Association	*Attn: Bill Marlett*	*Bend*	*97701*
Oregon Natural Heritage Program	*Attn: Mr. Jimmy Kagan*	*Portland*	*97210*
Oregon Natural Resources Council		*Portland*	*97214*

Oregon Natural Resources Council	*Attn: Mr. Mark Epstein*	*Portland*	*97204*
Oregon Natural Resources Council	*Western Regional Office*	*Eugene*	*97401*
Oregon Rivers Council	*Bob Doppelt, Executive Director*	*Eugene*	*97440*
Oregon Sheep Growers Association, Inc.	*Mr. Richard Kosesan*	*Salem*	*97301*
Oregon Sportsmen & Conservationists	*Dennis M. Hunt*	*Eugene*	*97440*
Oregon State Historic Preservation Ofc.		*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon State Library		*Salem*	*97301*
Oregon State University		*Corvallis*	*97331*
Oregon State University	*E. Charles Meslow*	*Corvallis*	*97331*
Oregon State University Rangeland	*Thomas Bedell*	*Corvallis*	*97331*
Oregon State University Rangeland	*William C. Krueger*	*Corvallis*	*97331*
Oregon State of Intergov. Relations Div.		*Salem*	*97310*
Oregon Trout State Headquarters	*Mr. Bill Bakke*	*Portland*	*97201*
Oregon Wildlife Federation		*Bend*	*97702*
Oregon Wildlife Federation	*Attn: Ms. Sharon Oberst*	*Portland*	*97267*
Oregon Wildlife Federation	*Mr. Fred Koehler*	*Eugene*	*97402*
Oregon Wildlife Federation	*Steve Alf, President*	*Milwaukie*	*97267*
Oregon Wildlife Federation	*c/o Mr. Harold Shepherd*	*Portland*	*97219*
Oregon Wildlife Federation News	*Patricia K. Johnston*	*Helper*	*84526*
Mr. George Ostertag		*Salem*	*97303*
Pacific NW 4-Wheel Drive Association	*Attn: Mary Zentner/Brownie*	*Scappoose*	*97056*
Pacific NW 4-Wheel Drive Association	*Ms. Pam Snowden, PNW COMP Chairman*	*Woodland*	*98674*
Pacific NW Forest & Range Exp. Station		*Portland*	*97204*
Honorable Bob Packwood	*United States Senator*	*Portland*	*97204*
Mr. Kirk Pawlowski		*Portland*	*97202*
Portland State University Library		*Portland*	*97201*
Mr. Thomas Pringle		*Eugene*	*97403*
Leroy and Shelly Pruitt		*Vida*	*97488*
Public Lands Council	*Patty McDonald*	*Washington*	*20004*
Range Ecology Group	*John E. Barry, Chairman*	*La Grande*	*97850*
William R. Renwick, II		*Tualatin*	*97062*
Riddle Ranches, Inc.	*c/o Allan Otley*	*Princeton*	*97721*
Governor Barbara Roberts		*Salem*	*97310*
Mr. Reed D. Russell		*Hilmar*	*95324*
Mr. J.F. Salmonese		*Milwaukie*	*97222*
Mr. Edward C. Sargent		*Shedd*	*97377*
American Fisheries Society - OR Chapter	*Attn: Mr. Kirk Schroeder*	*Corvallis*	*97339*
Mr. Michael R. Scuderi		*Auburn*	*98001*
Shell Western F&P Inc.	*Attn: RM.M. Verret*	*Houston*	*77001*
Sierra Club	*Kelly Smith*	*Anchorage*	*99503*
Sierra Club	*Mr. Lew Curtis*	*Portland*	*97213*
Sierra Club, Columbia Group		*Portland*	*97214*
Sierra Club	*NW Regional Office*	*Seattle*	*98122*
Honorable Robert F. Smith	*Member, US House of Representatives*	*Medford*	*97501*
Society of American Foresters		*Portland*	*97221*
Ms. Sally Stephenson		*Bozeman*	*59715*
Mr. Eric Stone		*Beaverton*	*97005*
Mr. Dan Taylor	*Western Regional Representative*	*Sacramento*	*95825*
Mr. Glenn D. Thackray		*Seattle*	*98103*
Mr. Ken Thompson		*Hines*	*97738*
Susanne Twight-Alexander		*Eugene*	*97405*
U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base	*Office of Environmental Planning*	*Washington*	*20332*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	*Chief, Planning Division*	*Portland*	*97208*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	*Portland District Office*	*Portland*	*97208*
USDA, Forest Service	*Director of Planning and Env. Affairs*	*Portland*	*97208*
USDA, Soil Conservation Service		*Portland*	*97204*
USDE, Bonneville Power Administration	*Mr. Anthony Morell*	*Portland*	*97208*

USDE, Bonneville Power Administration	*Mr. George Darr*	*Portland*	*97208*
U.S. Department of Energy	*Office of Environmental Compliance*	*Washington*	*20585*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office	*State Director*	*Phoenix*	*85011*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office	*State Director*	*Sacramento*	*95825*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office	*State Director*	*Lakewood*	*80215*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District Office	*District Manager*	*North Bend*	*97459*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Denver Service Center Library		*Denver*	*80225*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office	*State Director*	*Alexandria*	*22304*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District Office	*District Manager*	*Eugene*	*97401*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office	*State Director*	*Boise*	*83706*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District Office	*District Manager*	*Lakeview*	*97630*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office	*District Manager*	*Medford*	*97504*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office	*State Director*	*Billings*	*59107*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office	*State Director*	*Reno*	*89520*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office	*State Director*	*Santa Fe*	*87502*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office	*District Manager*	*Prineville*	*97754*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District Officer	*District Manager*	*Roseburg*	*97470*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Salem District Office	*District Manager*	*Salem*	*97306*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office	*District Manager*	*Spokane*	*99202*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office	*State Director*	*Salt Lake City*	*84111*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office	*State Director*	*Cheyenne*	*82001*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs	*Portland Area Office*	*Portland*	*97232*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Mines (Rm. 819)	*Branch of Mineral Assessment (MS-5050)*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Mines	*Chief, Western Field Operations Center*	*Spokane*	*99202*
USDI, Bureau of Reclamation	*Division of Environmental Affairs*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, Bureau of Reclamation	*Denver Federal Center (D-150)*	*Denver*	*80225*
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service		*Portland*	*97266*
USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service	*Assistant Director, Wildlife Enhancement*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, U.S. Geological Survey		*Portland*	*97216*
USDI, U.S. Geological Survey	*Environmental Affairs Program*	*Reston*	*22092*
USDI, Geological Survey, Pacific Area	*Oil & Gas Supervisor*	*Menlo Park*	*94025*
USDI, U.S. Geological Survey	*Pacific NW Division, Water Resources*	*Tacoma*	*98402*
USDI, Minerals Management Services	*Offshore Environmental Assessment Div.*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, National Park Service	*Division of Environmental Compliance*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, National Park Service	*Recreation Resources Assistance Div.*	*Washington*	*20013*
USDI, National Park Service	*Pacific Northwest Region*	*Seattle*	*98104*
USDI, Natural Resources Library	*Serials Branch (GE)*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, Natural Resources Library		*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, Natural Resources Library	*Gifts and Exchange Section*	*Washington*	*20240*
USDI, Office of Public Affairs		*Washington*	*20240*
USDT Environmental Division		*Washington*	*20590*
Union Oil Company	*Mr. Bob J. Taylor, Manager of Lands*	*Los Angeles*	*90051*
Univ. of Nev. Desert Research Institute	*Peter E. Wigand, Ph.D.*	*Reno*	*89506*
University of Oregon	*Bureau of Government Research*	*Eugene*	*97401*
University of Oregon Survival Center	*Trevor Dick*	*Eugene*	*97403*
University of Oregon, Environ. Studies	*Attn: Terri Lee Brown*	*Eugene*	*97401*
University of Oregon Library		*Eugene*	*97403*
Mr. Charles P. Van Epps		*Broomfield*	*80038*
Vulcan Power Company	*Attn: Ms. Anna Carter*	*Petaluma*	*94952*
WHOA	*Ms. Dawn Lappin*	*Reno*	*89504*
Mr. Joe Walicki		*Seattle*	*98145*
Mr. James D. Ward		*La Grande*	*97850*
Mr. Bruce White		*Bend*	*97701*
The Wilderness Society	*Larry Tuttle*	*Portland*	*97205*
Wildlife Management Institute		*Washington*	*20005*

Wildlife Management Institute	*William B. Morse, Western Rep.*	*Portland*	*97212*
Mr. Harry E. Wilson		*Bremerton*	*98312*
Mr. Monte D. Wilson	*Dept. of Geosciences*	*Boise*	*83725*
Mr. John Witzel		*Frenchglen*	*97736*
Ms. Jill Workman		*Portland*	*97202*
Honorable Ron Wyden	*Member, U.S. House of Representatives*	*Portland*	*97232*
Mr. Ralph Zusman		*Portland*	*97206*

APPENDIX G
LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE

The Limits of Acceptable Change concept has been developed us a supplement to carrying capacity determinations. It is bused on the premise that recreational use of an area can diminish the quality of both the natural environment and the recreation experience. Concern about overuse causing negative impacts on the ecological and social environments of an area has led managers to try to establish carrying capacities. This approach has focused attention on the people that can be allowed to use an area without causing unacceptable changes to the natural environment or the recreation experience.

In applying the Limits of Acceptable Change concept, managers assume that change to the ecological and social conditions of the urea is going to occur due to both natural and human factors. The goal of management then is to keep the character and rate of change due to human factors within acceptable levels.

According to Limits of Acceptable Change, managers first develop management objectives for the area they are managing and describe the recreation opportunities that will be provided. They then identify the ecological and social factors that are likely to change and select indicators which can be easily observed and used as a gauge to determine the amount of change that is occurring. For each indicator, managers then set a standard, which is a threshold value that defines the amount of change that is acceptable and unacceptable. The purpose of selecting indicators and standards is to provide managers with reference points so they can judge whether the recreation opportunity for which they are trying to manage is actually being provided over time.

APPENDIX H
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

1-1

Comment:

"Livestock Grazing—With nearly 50% of the riser's tipariatz areas itz only poor to fair condition, due mostly to the effects of grazing it seems that the management plan needs to be more direct in addresritzg this issue. Tying the riser ttzatzagemetzf plan (and accompanying EA) to future AMPs (and EAs) locks definitiveness. In the very least the river management plan should make specific recommendations to the AMPs that affect the river corridor. The plan needs to call for tnore specific and measurable conditions, such as tzo grazing itz the canyons (segments A, B, D, E, F) and NO grazing in segment C until tipariatz cottditiotz improves to good or excellent condition. Grazing trespass also needs to be addressed and prosecuted."

Response:

Due to recreation and riparian values, there are approximately 40 miles of the river corridor excluded from domestic livestock use. In this plan, livestock grazing will be reduced, eliminated, or controlled through range improvement projects to protect the outstandingly remarkable values. Grazing adjustments of livestock on public lands can be changed through a land-use plan amendment, a Resource Management Plan, or when an Allotment Management Plan is developed.

A livestock permittee can volunteer to take nonuse within their allotment.

Because there is no date scheduled to begin a Resource Management Plan for the A ndrews Resource Area, the river management plan recom friends that the changes which affect livestock management which are necessary to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values be developed through grazing systems within coordinated resource management plans. The river management plan ltas set the standards for the grazing systems to follow.

Grazing trespass will be enforced on public lands urtder existing regulations.

1-2

Comment:

"Recreation—While recreation use on Steens Mountain may be increasing it is not itz the best interest of the wild river to encourage increased use. We are not advocating discouraging use but the concept of ttzaitztaitzitzg existing trails (p.63 Plan) that to our ktzowledge have not had BLM maintenance itt the past is uncalled for. Trails should rettzaitz primitive atzd unmaintained unless resource damage is occurring. Certainly no additional trails should be developed. The Desert Trail which exists itz guidebooks and as informal paths, as it is intended, should not be formally tnaitztained or developed as that would detract frottz its existitzg, primitive nature. The provision for developing a parkitzg area/pull-off for day- use itz Little Blitzen Canyon (p. 62 Plan) is another example of encouraging use where it is not needed. Hikers to the Little Blitzen can access the area from Kiddie Ranch orfrotn the existing Indian Creek staging area where off-road parkitzg is ample."

Response:

Recreational use should be managed to protect artd enhance the resource values within the river corridor.

A monitoring system, Limits of Acceptable Change, will be set up as a method to guide existing and future trends within the river corridor.

Trails will only be maintained when resource damage occurs.

River crossings or fords will be maintained to allow safe passage by the public and prevent resource damage.

The recommendation for a staging area into the Little Blitzen Gorge, located along the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road, is being withdrawn from the river management plan. It is being addressed in the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan amendment for recreational access within the Steens Mountain area.

1-3

Comment:
"Campgrounds—We are opposed to developing a campground of this size at Indian Creek. A site more of the nature of Jackman Park with 8 campsites is realistic here, again with the purpose of a staging area for horsepackers. The area is already suffering from overuse at the creek, particularly where the river crossing is blocked. The road down to Indian Creek should be blocked to vehicles before it descends to the canyon.

"A designated campground at this site will increase damage to Indian Creek. Developing campgrounds should come under the Steens Mountain Recreation Plan not under the wild river plan which has as a goal to protect the river not develop recreation facilities. No campgrounds should be proposed under the river plan."

Response:
The recommendation to develop a campground is being withdrawn from the river management plan. Recreational access within the Steens Mountain area is being addressed in the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan Amendment.

The road which leads to the existing Big Indian staging area will remain open to the public at its present locations.

1-4

Comment:
"Riddle Ranch—It is noted that all objectives of the Riddle Ranch CRMP are consistent within the guidelines for wild rivers in the Act (p.61), however, it is difficult to understand this given the poor riparian and aquatic habitat conditions that are present on Riddle Ranch and which continue to suffer from abusive grazing. The river plan needs to make specific recommendations for improvement of the riparian and aquatic habitat conditions along the Little Blitzen irregardless of how the objectives of the CRMP are being carried out. The CRMP should be amended if it does not affort (sic) the wild river the resource protection that is warranted.

"Some specific recommendations for the Riddle Ranch include; (1) the downstream portions of the Little Blitzen from the confluence with the mainstem to the ranch itself should be excluded from grazing, they are currently in poor condition and a disgrace to the Historic District, (2) the irrigated meadows should be examined for possible removal from irrigation by range experts. Instream flows are needed for the rare fish species present and for healthy riparian. Removal of irrigation may eventually lead to a narrowing of the meadows but will likely result simultaneously in a widening of the willow-cottonwood riparian zone. These options should have been developed in the management plan EA."

Response:
The riparian and aquatic habitat within the Riddle Brothers Ranch area will be managed to protect and enhance these values.

At the present time, the ranch is still being operated under a life-estate covenant to the deed. Measures are being taken to improve these conditions in the short term. Long-term goals will be to manage livestock on a short duration during the spring season of use.

The river management plan recommends that a hydrological study take place to determine how much irrigation is needed for these meadows, when irrigation should be stopped, and the effects of irrigation on fisheries and aquatic habitat.

1-5

Comment:
"Riparian Habitats—While the riparian habitats along the Blitzen drainage are in general in better condition than those in other creek systems in the northern Great Basin there is still considerable room for improvement. The riparian and aquatic in ventories conducted in 1991 show where there is need for improvement, yet the management plan does not reflect this knowledge. It is not often that one has the luxury of such specific and current data so it only makes sense to take advantage of it through appropriate management actions. Outside of livestock removal or season of use changes there was no discussion of other riparian enhattcetnent programs. instream (sic) structures, willow planting, and bank stabilization should have been at least noted in the plan. However, most riparian experts agree that livestock removal is the most cost effective and results in the most rapid improvement of riparian conditions.

"A full discussion of what should be done on the South Fork, for example, is appropriate for the management plan. Specific recommend&ions for the AMP should be included in the river plan. If the AMP is deficient then the river plan must be ready to propose additional measures to correct the threats to the outstandingly remarkable resources that hare been identified and that are dependent upon high quality riparian areas."

Response:
Under riparian management, the proposed action states, maintains, and where necessary, restores the streamside vegetation, stream channel stability, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

It is agreed that instream structures, bank stabilization, and willow planting are tools which can be used to improve riparian areas.

Copies of the South Steens Allotment Management Plan will be sent to all interested publics for input into the draft plan. The draft Allotment Management Plan will be sent to the public upon completion.

1-6

Comment:
"Rare Species-The inventories conducted by The Nature Conservancy (rare plants) and by ODFW and BLM (rare fish and animals) were goodfirst steps in understanding what is present. How to manage these resources should have received more attention in the management plan. Under Resource Protection (p.60) rare plants are not mentioned at all. Rare plants were sometimes associated with riparian areas (grapeferns) and other times associated with wet meadows at high elevations. These areas have differing threats which should have been noted in the plan. Similar needs may be noted fur rare fish and animals, although fish were addressed to some extent in the context of riparian condition. Continued inventories are called for regarding the fish species and should also be mandated for rare plants as well."

Response:
This past summer aquatic habitat inventories were completed on 8.7 river miles of public lands within the river system. These inventories were conducted on Segments A and F.

It is recommended that a coordinated resource management plan be developed for redband trout/Malheur mottled sculpin.

Threatened and Endangered plant species will be monitored under existing guidelines and programs established for the Steens Mountain area.

1-7

Comment:
"Unique Habitats, Natural Areas—The identified unique habitats and currently designated natural areas (RNA/ACECs) are shown distinctly on the maps provided in the EA but there is almost no mention of the areas in the management plan after that. How these areas to be managed? (sic) What are the constraints on these areas that may not be on other areas in the river corridor? These most special areas should receive more attention in the plan as they are the baseline from which recovery of other areas can measured (sic) and they provide the link to natural community conditions."

Response:
The management plan recommends protecting and enhancing the existing Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the river corridor. These special management areas are already being monitored and managed under existing programs which have been in place for over 8 years.

The plan states that the Unique Natural Areas be analyzed to see if they meet the cell needs for Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as described in the Oregon Natural Heritage Program.

Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern will be considered in the upcoming Andrews Resource Management Plan and will be subject to interim management to protect them until formal evaluation through a plan amendment is final.

2-1

Comment:
"NEPA requires the BLM to prepare an EIS whenever it proposes 'major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.' 42 U.S.C.A.§ 4332(2)(C). The regulations of the Department of Interior list 'proposals for ... Wild and Scenic Rivers' as actions which 'normally requires the preparation of an EIS.' 516 DM 6—Appendix 5.3-A(2), 57 Fed. Reg. 10917, 10918 (March 31, 1992). Since the proposed Plan represents a 'proposal for ... a Wild and Scenic River' an EIS should be prepared unless the BLM can provide sufficient evidence in the record that the Plan does not have 'significant' environmental effects.

"ONRC asserts that the Plan does have significant environmental effects. Referring to 40 CFR § 1508.27, the Plan has a large 'context' since the river has been added to a National Wild and
Scenic River system and because the river draws visitors from a great distance to enjoy the outstandingly remarkable values associated with the river corridor. The 'intensity' of the action also supports the significance of the Plan. The CEQ says that 'unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to ... wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas' should be considered in evaluating intensity and significance. 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3). Congressional recognition of the river's 'outstandingly remarkable values' further supports the significance of the Plan.

"Additionally, the Plan has 'significant' effects because the Plan is deciding among competing and conflicting uses of the limited resources in the river corridor. The BLM's proposed Plan favors cattle grazing over the recognized outstandingly remarkable values of vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, scenery and geology. The BLM's decision among the alternative Plan proposals significantly affects the quality of those values now and in the future."

Response:
Please refer to the combined Finding of No Significant Impacts/Decision Record for EA-OR-020-2-72 for an explanation of why an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

2-2

comment:
The regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) defines an Environmental Assessment as a concise public document which 'briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether tv prepare an [EIS] or a [FONSI].' 40 CFR § 1508.9. Se (sic) also 40 CFR § 1501.4(c). Whether to prepare an EIS requires consideration of whether the Plan has 'significant' effects on the human environment. 42 U.S.C.A. § 4332(2)(C). 40 CFR § 1508.27. 516 DM 3.4-C. The Plan EA does not accomplish this important duty. The Plan EA is void of any analysis of the 'significance' of the Plan's impact on the environment. The public and the decision-maker are without any guidance as to the significance of the proposal or the question of whether the BLM might prepare an EIS or a FONSI. The BLM must amend the EA to address question of whether to prepare an EIS vr a FONSI and the important considerations of 'context' and 'intensity' as required by 40 CFR § 1508.27."

Response:
See response to 2-I.

2-3

Comment:
"The Blitzen River Management Plan is a weak plan that fails to live up to the requirements of resource protection imposed by Congress in passing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Plan clings to the status quo and fails to take on the real issues facing the Wild and Scenic River corridor. There are five grazing allotments partly within or adjacent to the river corridor that have direct adverse impacts on the recognized outstandingly remarkable values of the river corridor, including recreation, vegetation, fisheries, and wildlife. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the BLM to protect those values, but the BLM chooses to hunker down behind its historical allies in the cattle industry and continue to allow the livestock to trample, eat and destroy the very same outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated. The current Plan opposes separate consideration of the river management Plan and each of the five allotments. This will only perpetuate the current grazing regime and serve to hide the real interconnections between all the allotments and their impacts on the outstandingly remark-abk values of the river corridor.

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act mandates that 'the plan shall be coordinated with and may be incorporated into resource management planning for affected adjacent Federal lands.' 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1). Livestock grazing by private parties on public lands is the greatest threat to every outstandingly remarkable value for which the river was designated, including scenery, recreation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, and *geology. It is only logical to cvvrdinate the river management Plan with the Allotment Management Plans for ail allotments within and adjacent to the designated river corridor, ONRC urges that the Allotment Management Plans should all be opened up for consideration by the BLM in the context of this Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. The necessity of looking at all these plans together in the context of the river Plan is obvious when one looks at the uncoordinated and confused results of separate allotment planning.*

"In several areas within the river corridor the riparian urea gets a double hit by livestock from two different allotments that border on the stream vrfrvm animals that regularly trespass to areas where they do not belong which adds to the impacts of animals that do belong in the area. For instance, the riparian area long the lower south fork of Donner und Blitzen Riser is hit from the west by 1100 head of cattle from the Steens Pasture of the South Steens Allotment, and the same riparian area is hit from the east by 255 head of cattle from the Newton Cabin Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. Plan EA page 28. Public land along lower Fish Creek gets hit by 400 cattle from Frazier Field Allotment and 400 cattle from Fish Creek-Big

Indian Allotment. Plan EA page 28. Little Indian Creek also gets hit from two sides; by cattle from the South Steens Allotment and by cattle trespassing from the Newton Cabin Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment. Plan EA page 28. Incidentally, such trespass is a violation of 43 CFR § 9239.0-7.

"According to the American Fisheries Society, 'It is well known that livestock spend a disproportionate amount of time in riparian areas, especially on rangeland in the arid and semi-arid West. Unfortunately, overuse has resulted in considerable damage to riparian zones with degradation of aquatic and wildlife habitats.' 16(1)Fisheries. The BLM reports that along the south fork Blitzen River, where forage utilization is heavy to severe in the riparian areas, the adjacent uplands in both allotments show light utilization. Plan EA page 28.

"The combined evidence of uncoordinated planning between allotments and severe damage to the riparian areas' outstandingly remarkable values, especially vegetation, recreation, fisheries and wildlife, strongly reinforces the necessity of addressing grazing by opening up the allotment plans for consideration in the present context of the Donner and Blitzen Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. The relevant allotments include: Fish Creek-Big Indian, South Steens, Frazier Field, Hardie-Summer, and Otley Brothers, although the priority allotment (sic) are the Fish Creek-Big Indian, South Steens, and Frazier Field, because these latter allotments have the most direct adverse impacts on outstandingly remarkable values on public lands in the river corridor. Hardie-Summer Allotment and Otley Brothers Allotment impact the river corridor, but mostly on privately owned lands in upper Fish Creek.

"Further support for the argument to consider the river Plan and the AMPs together is the fact that the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment and the South Steens Allotment do not even have Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). The Plan EA on page 27 indicates that both allotments are scheduled to have AMPs prepared in 1992 or 1993, so it seems only logical to 'coordinate' these AMPs with this river management Plan or even 'incorporate' these two AMPs into this river Plan as contemplated by Congress in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1247(d)(1)."

Response:

The Donner und Blitzen River Management Plan is well coordinated with other resource management plans, laws, regulations, and policy. These plans include the Andrews Resource Area Land Use Plan, Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern plans, Steens Mountain Recreation Management Plan, and the Riddle Brothers Ranch Cultural Resource Management Plan. The laws, regulations, and policy include the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act - 1971, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, 1986, the Interim Management Policy Guidelines for Land Under Wilderness Review, and grazing permits within allotments on public land.

The unified coordination and management of all these plans, regulations, and policy are a factor in developing the river management plan. No one act is more important or has preference over the other.

2-4

Comment:

"The BLM scheme to undertake separate consideration of the AMPs and the Wild and Scenic River Plan is patently inconsistent with the twin mandates of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1) that the plan 'shall be coordinated' with planning for adjacent Federal lands, and 2) that the plan 'shall be prepared after consultation' with the interested public. 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1)(emphasis added). The BLM allotment planning rules do not allow for participation by the general public, so the allotments should should be considered in the river plan where the public is allowed to participate. Under BLM rules for preparing Allotment Management plans, only 'affected interests,' who have expressed concern about grazing on specific allotments and have been determined by the authorized officer to be an 'affected interest,' may participate in or protest Allotment Management Plans. 43 CFR §§ 4100.0-5, 4160-2. Participation by the 'interested public' is far different than participation by 'affected interests.' So unless the AMPs are opened up and addressed in the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, the general public is excluded from participating in important decisions that directly and adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires consultation with the public and protection of river values, yet the BLM is attempting to hide behind the rules for allotment planning to exclude the public from participating in important decisions affecting the outstandingly remarkable values which must be protected."

Response:
The South Steens Allotment Management Plan is being driven by a citizen working group which represents a wide variety of public interest. The names of the individuals and who they represent are identified in the river management plan under Appendix E.

An environmental assessment will be written for the South Steens coordinated resource management plan for grazing systems and sent to all interested publics who wish to comment on the draft management plan.

2-5

Comment:
"The primary objective of the Management Plan is to 'protect river values.' This objective is repeated over and over in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act at 16 U.S.C.A. §§ 1271, 1274(d)(1), 1281(a), and 1283(a). The Act also says the plan shall address 'resource protection.' 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1). The Blitzen River Plan EA does not adequately accomplish this important duty to protect values and resources."

Response:
The proposed Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River Management Plan has been strenmgthened to clarify management objectives and actions to assure it will protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

2-5A

Comment:
"Domestic livestock grazing is by far the greatest threat to the outstandingly remarkable vegetation in the river corridor, yet the Plan EA does not adequately address grazing. On page seven of the Plan EA 'grazing permits within allotments on public land' are listed as 'constraints' on the Plan. This characterization of grazing permits misconstrues the purposes and intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Act states, 'The Secretary of the Interior, ... shall take such action respecting management policies, regulations, contracts, plans, affecting [Wild and Scenic Rivers] ... as may be necessary to protect such rivers in accordance with the purposes of this chapter.' 16 U.S.C.A. § 1283(a). The Final Revised Guidelines for Management of River Areas states that river management will provide for 'resource uses which do not adversely impact of (sic) degrade those [outstandingly remarkable] values.' 47 Fed. Reg. 39458-59, September 7, 1982. The grazing permits are not 'constraints' on the scope of the plan. The grazing permits 'adversely affect and degrade' the river's values and are therefore a 'constraint' only on the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act. The BLM has explicit authority, and a duty, to amend the grazing permits in order to protect the outstandingly remarkable vegetation value of the diverse vegetation for which the river was designated. the (sic) BLM should exercise that authority to amend grazing permits to protect river values."

Response:
See response to 1-5 and 1-6.

2-5B

Comment:
"The BLM must cooperate with EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 'for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing tht? pollution of waters- of the river.' 16 U.S.C.A. § 1283(c). The BLM has trot cooperated to eliminate pollution caused by cattle grazing and low water river crossings".

Response:
The management plan states that at least minimum requirements will be met for water quality standards as outlined in Section 314 of the Clean Water Act. Action items recommend setting up water quality monitoring for each river segment by 1995 and data collected four times per year. Five years of data would be collected to establish a baseline. Appropriate actions would be taken to meet water quality standards.

The State Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Program will study the Blitzen River and its tributaries as potential Outstanding Resource Waters with state mandated water quality standards. The Bureau will cooperate and assist with this study.

2-5C

Comment:
"Primitive recreation is cited again and again in the Plan EA as an outstandingly remarkable value of the river corridor, yet the Plan EA fails to identify grazing as a direct conflict with this outstandingly remarkable value. In order to protect the value of primitive recreation in the river corridor, grazing must be phased out.

"The road from Riddle Ranch to Ankle Creek also interferes with the value of primitive recreation in the corridor. This road should be closed to protect this outstandingly remarkable value."

Response:
See response 1-2.

2-5D

Comments:
"1. Aquatic Habitat is Not Protected
"The Plan EA states that the quality and importance of the native fisheries habitat results in an outstandingly remarkable values (sic). Plan EA page 4. Almost thirty miles of aquatic habitat was surveyed for the Plan EA. Of the thirty miles surveyed, 45% was in fair or poor condition. Page 43 of the Plan EA says that the 'inventory data described ... vulnerability of the aquatic habitat to impacts associated with land management activities.' NEPA demands that this information be disclosed in the EA, yet nowhere do we find this information. Is the fair or poor aquatic habitat in the river corridor associated with livestock grazing? The position of the American Fisheries Society is that 'The collapse of overhanging banks due to livestock grazing is one of the principal factors contributing to the decline of native trout in the West.' 16(1) Fisheries 7.

"The map of aquatic habitat condition (Map B-1) shows that the poor condition of upper Blitzen River near the confluence with Deep Creek is located in the South Steens Allotment, where 3600 head of cattle have uncontrolled access to the River from June through October. The Plan EA says forage utilization is heavy to severe in this area. How has the outstandingly remarkable fishery been protected here? Clearly, the Plan EA fails to protect this Outstandingly remarkable values (sic).

"The fair condition of aquatic habitat in lower Little Blitzen River and lower Big Indian Creek can be directly correlated to the river stretches where cattle still have access to the stream below the cattle exclosures in the upper canyons. These cattle are from the Newton Cabin Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment, but there may also be trespass from the South Steens Allotment through Little Indian Creek canyon.

"The plan must be amended to remove cattle from all areas with poor or fair aquatic habitat condition in order to protect the outstandingly remarkable fishery.

"2. No Actions Are Planned to Meet the Goal of Improved Riparian Habitat
"The Plan EA briefly mentions a goal to have 75% of the riparian areas in the corridor in good or better condition by 1997. Plan EA page 61. This is a laudable goal, but no actions are planned to meet the goal. A 'plan' is more than the goal itself; it is a coordinated set of actions designed to accomplish the goal or objective. The Final Revised Guidelines for Management of River Areas defines management plan to mean a 'detailed development plan.' The Guidelines also state that 'management plans will state: ...specific management measures which will be used to implement the management objectives...' 47 Fed. Reg. 39454, 39456, 39458, September 7, 1982. The final Plan must identify the specific actions planned by the BLM to improve fish habitat and riparian areas degraded by cattle grazing.

"3. No Contingency Plans Are Identified In Case Funds Are Not Available For Fish Habitat Management Plans
"Habitat Management Plans for Redband trout and Malheur Mottled sculpin are certainly important projects, but experience tells us that even important projects are contingent on funding. What happens if funds aren't available? The Plan EA should disclose the adverse impacts to fish if funds are not available for these Habitat Plans.

"4. The Water Diversion at the Riddle Ranch is Illegal and Will Harm Fisheries
"The BLM should withdraw its December 1990 application to the Oregon Wafer Resources Department for a permit to irrigate 80 acres of pasture land at the Riddle Ranch, Plan EA page 5% The diversion of water from the Little Blitzen River not only harms the outstandingly remarkable fisheries, but the diversion also violates state water law, ORS §§ 537.1 10, 537.130(2), 540.720, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 662(a), and the Wild and Scenic Risers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1278(a). Oregon water law prohibits any diversion of wafer without a permit from the Water Resources Department. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act requires the BLM to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service! and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife before diverting water fur arty purpose. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act prohibits the BLM fromrecommending authorization of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse impact on the values for which the river was established without advising the Secretary of Interior in writing 60 days inadvance, and without specifically reporting to Congress in writing."

Response:
Please refer to the proposed action for fish attd wildlife, riparian, and grazing **managemen t** in the river **management** plan. These management actions describe **ways to** protect and enhance the **outstandingly** remarkable **values,** along with a timeframe and level of improvement needed **to** protect these **resources.**

See response **1-4 on** the **hydrological** study **recommended for** the meadows at the **Riddle** Brothers Ranch.

2-5E

Comment:
"The low elevation flyovers conducted by the Idaho Air National Guard over the Little Blitzen River canyon have a significant adverse impart on the outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values of the river cvrridvr. The sense of peace and solitude in the cvrridvr is destroyed by the abrupt invasions of modern technology. The sense vf lost solitude and tranquility experienced by recreation&s is not merely momentary but lasts for hours or days. The Wild and Scenic Risers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1), requires the BLM to prepare the plan after 'consultation with State and local governments.' BLM failed to 'consult' with Idaho Air National Guard to stop or reduce low elevation flyovers.

"The possibility of air crashes is also a problem This happened in 1.956 to a plane crew conducting wilderness surveys in the river corridor. The threat to human life is the largest concern, but the prospect of a valley floor littered with crash debris is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.

"Cattle also have a scenic impact that is not addressed in the Plan. Cattle trails in tite river corridor can be seen from canyon rims miles away. the (sic) scenic experience of hikers is adversely impacted by degraded riparian areas and other cattle damage."

Response:
The Bureau of Land **Management** will work **with** the **military** to **reduce the number of flyovers** in the Dormer **und Blitzen** River **military** training **route (VR-1301).**

As **riparian** areas **improve** with **time,** less **trails by** cattle **will** be noticeable due to rehabilitation of **vegetation.**

2-5F

Comment:
"1. Riparian Areas Are Not Protected
"The Plan EA states that the 250 wildlife species are estimated to inhabit the area, and that wildlife will be managed as an outstandingly remarkable value. Many of these 250 species use the ripariart area fvr all or part of their lifecycle, yet 41% of the riparian areas are in poor or fair condition. The Plan fails to protect the outstandingly remarkable values vf riparian vegetation and wildlife that use the riparian area. The Plan should include specific actions to improve degraded riparian areas.

"The Plan EA states that 'poor and fair condition habitat has been strongly influenced by historic livestock grazing that reduced woody riparian species.' Plan EA page 29, and then goes on to say that removing livestock from the lower Blitzen River above Page Springs Campground has markedly improved riparian habitat. One proven action that the BLM could take to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of vegetation and wildlife would be to remove cattle from all riparian areas in the river corridor.

"2. California Bighorn Sheep Are Not Protected
"The California bighorn sheep and the sage Grouse (sic) are of particular interest to ONRC. The Plan EA fails to adequately protect these species as outstandingly remarkable values.

"California bighorn sheep are a Candidate 2 species listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife believes at least 30 miles of the river corridor are potential summer and winter range for bighorn sheep. The Plan EA fails to mention that the wild sheep are currently limited to a much smaller range within the corridor, and that the main threat to the wild sheep in the corridor is the spread of diseases carried by domestic sheep that graze on public and private land in the corridor with the permission and encouragement of the BLM.

"In order to protect the values represented by wild sheep, the BLM should, at a minimum, phase out all sheep grazing on public lands identified by ODF&W as potential wild sheep habitat. The domestic livestock are <u>not</u> recognized as an outstandingly remarkable value, the wild sheep and other wildlife are, yet the BLM seems to be managing for domestic livestock at the expense of the outstandingly remarkable wildlife values.

"3. Sage Grouse Are Not Protected
"Sage grouse are another candidate species inhabiting the area. Sage grouse populations are in decline in Oregon. Since the 1950s the ratio of chicks to adults has declined 67% and the percentage of adults with broods has declined by 60% while the brood size has declined by 27%. Crawford, Sage Grouse in Oregon, *OSU Game Bird Research Program, April 25, 1992 presentation at the ONRC Desert Conference. The Plan EA mentions the existence of sage grouse within the river corridor, but fails to mention that they have special habitat needs. Sage grouse need tall grass for nesting and cover from predators, and they need abundant forbs for both the young and adult sage grouse to feed on. <u>Id.</u> It is obvious that tall grass and forbs will be more abundant in areas ungrazed by cattle and sheep, yet the Plan fails to manage for tall grass and forbs. Instead the Plan manages for high percentage forage utilization (i.e. short grass and fewer forbs) by treating the grazing permits as 'constraints' that cannot be addressed in the Plan. By not amending the grazing permits to manage for tall grass and forbs, the BLM is not protecting outstandingly remarkable values as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act."*

Response:
See response 2-5D on riparian management. The California bighorn sheep and the sage grouse are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Bureau manages habitat.

There are no public lands within the Wild and Scenic River corridor which are grazed by domestic sheep. Domestic sheep are grazed on the private lands of Fish Creek drainage (Segment F).

Sage grouse occur within a few areas of the Wild and Scenic River corridor because they prefer the uplands above the canyon rims. The majority of the river corridor, due to topography, is not suited for sage grouse habitat.

2-5G

Comment:
"The upland soils in the corridor have a moderate to high water erosion hazard. Plan EA page 45. The plan fails to protect these soils as they contribute to the recognized outstandingly remarkable values of geology and vegetation. Cattle grazing is the most direct threat to these soils, yet the Plan fails to address grazing."

Response:
The results of the inventories on riparian and vegetative communities state that the uplands within the river corridor are in a good to excellent condition.

2-6

Comments:

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1), requires the BLM to address development of lands andfacilities in the river management Plan."

Response:

The river management plan does address development under Chapter 3 of the proposed plan. Recreational development/Visitor Management is discussed with subtopics on recreational facility development, road maintenance, and road closures.

2-6A

Comment:

"'A. Range Developments Are Not Addressed

"The Plan EA does not address possible range developments which may be proposed in the future under the grazing allotments within the river corridor. Additional fencing may improve riparian condition and protect outstanding& retnarkahle vegetation but any additionalfencittg is inconsistent with the wild character of the river corridor and will adversely impact recreation. the (sic) Plan EA does not address these interconnected issues. The best solution is to remove livestock and fencing from public lands."

Response:

As coordinated resource management plans for grazing systems are completedfor the two allotments within the river corridor, they will outline in detail all projects associated with range improvements, See response 1-5 explaining the Allotment Management Plan process.

2-6B

Comment:"B. Roads Are Not Adequately Addressed

"The Plan EA also fails to disclose the adverse impacts of roads in the corridor. Many wildlife species, such as Righortt sheep, do not use the river corridor unless people are absent, yet improved roads will only increase human activity in the corridor. The improved roadfrotn Riddle Ranch to Ankle creek (sic) crosses both Rig Indian Creek and Mud Creek. The low water crossings over these two creeks are causes of water pollution and riparian degradation. In order to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of the corridor, this roadfrotn Kiddie Ranch to Ankle Creek tnust be closed. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act urges the BLM to pay particular attention to 'road construction and similar activities which might be contrary to the purposes of' the Act. 16 U.S.C.A. § 1283(a). The BLM has failed to give 'particular attention' in the Plan EA to the improved roadfrotn Riddle Ranch to Ankle Creek. The BLM should close the road in the final plan.

"The Plan should prohibit tnoutttaitt bikes wherever soils are moderately or highly erodible."

Response:

All road maintenance must protect and enhance the river-related values. Low water river crossing in Segment D will he maintained for safe passage by the public and prevent resource damage from occurring.

Seventeen miles of roads and trails will be closed to mountain bikes in the Big and Little Indian Canyons and the Little Blitzen Gorge.

2-7

Cotntnent:

"The Plan EA does not address 'user capacities' as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1). The Final Revised Guidelines for Mattagetnent of River Areas require that studies be prepared during plan preparatiott 'to determine tha quantity and mixture of recreation and other public use which can be permitted without adverse impact on the

resource values of the river area.' 47 Fed. Reg. 39459, September 7, 1982. How many recreationists and cattle can the river corridor support? What alternative 'mixtures' of cattle and recreation were considered by the planning team? These questions are unanswered in the Plan EA. If cattle grazing is phased out, user conflicts will be eliminated and the recreational use capacity will increase. The Plan EA fails to address these issues as required by the Act."

Response:
See response to 1-2.

2-8

Comment:
"The EA at page six refers to an interagency agreement with state parks and the U.S. Forest Service regarding the 'format and outline' of wild and scenic river management plans. This agreement does not fulfill the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(d)(1), which mandates that the management plans be developed after consultation with state and local government. The interagency agreement concerning the format of management plans does not constitute substantive 'consultation' with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Division of State Lands, the Idaho Air National Guard, and the County Planning Department, as contemplated by Congress."

Response:
The resource assessments and the draft river management plan were sent to all Federal, State, and local agencies which expressed an interest in reviewing and commenting on these documents. Good cooperation and consultation exists between all agencies, especially those which are directly involved with the resources of the river corridor.

2-9

Comment:
"The CEQ requires the BLM to include in every EA 'a listing of agencies and persons consulted.' 40 CFR § 1508.9(b). This listing would be useful to ensure that the decisions-maker has the benefit of expertise from each agency with special knowledge of resources in the river corridor. The list would also serve to ensure compliance with the consultation requirements at 16 U.S.C.A. § 1274(D)(1)."

Response:
A list of agencies and persons consulted can be reviewed under Appendix F of this plan. There are 220 individuals, organizations, and agencies on the Wild and Scenic River mailing list.

2-10

Comment:
"NEPA requires the BLM to disclose the environmental impacts and alternatives of the proposed management plan. 42 U.S.C.A.§ 4332(2)(C), 40 CFR Part 1500. When the Plan EA describes grazing utilization as 'heavy to severe' in many areas of the river corridor, the EA fails to disclose or analyze the adverse impacts of such severe utilization levels on the outstandingly remarkable values of vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, scenery, recreation and geology.

"Heavy to severe utilization levels are reported in five separate areas: Little Blitzen Meadows, Newton Cabin Pasture, upper south fork of the Blitzen River, lower Big Indian Creek, and upper Fish Creek. Plan EA page 28. The EA must disclose the meaning of 'severe utilization' in each one of these areas, and the EA must disclose the adverse impacts of 'severe utilization' on each recognized outstandingly remarkable value in the river corridor. With information currently available in the Plan EA the public and the decision-maker are left to wonder what the environmental impacts of severe utilization are.

"ONRC supports Alternative Three of the Plan EA which calls for removing all livestock grazing on public lands within the corridor through voluntary suspended non-use or land-use plan amendments. Plan EA page 61. The Plan EA fails to disclose the impacts, or the lack thereof, of alternative three with regard to cattle grazing. The EA should disclose the improvements that will accrue to the outstandingly *remarkable values* of the *river* corridor *if* cattle are *removed from public lands within the river corridor."*

Response:
The draft river management plan addressed the impacts of livestock grazing by publishing the results of inventories on riparian, aquatic habit, and Threatened and Endangered species. The final river management plan adequately addresses the impacts of grazing within the river corridor.

A detailed description of livestock grazing by river segment is outlined in the Affected Environment section of the draft and final river management ph.

2-11

Comment:
"NEPA requires the BLM to describe the affected environment, and disclose the environmental impacts of its proposed plan and the alternatives. 42 U.S.C.A. § 4332(2)(C), 40 CFR Part 1500. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C.A. § 1283(c), requires the BLM to cooperate with EPA and DEQ 'for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing the po llution of waters of the river.' See also the last sentence of 16 U.S.C.A. § 1271, which recognizes water quality protection as one of the purposes of the Act

"A. The EA Fails to Describe the Affected Environment per NEPA
"The Plan EA fails to describe the existing water quality in the corridor. *The EA only states that water quality* data *have* been *collected for the last ten years and that "[w]ater quality varies from site to site with the season of the year and the management practices in adjacent riparian and upland areas.' Plan EA page 57. The Plan does not say whether state water quality Standards for the area are being met or whether livestock grazing is a significant cause of water quality problems related to temperature, turbidity, bacteria, and dissolved oxygen. This failure to disclose water quality information is a violation of NEPA.*
"B. The BLM Failed to Cooperate with EPA and DEQ to Eliminate Water Pollution
"The plan also fails to meet the minimum requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act regarding water quality, 16 U.S.C.A. §§ 1271, 1283(c). One of the prime purposes of the Act is to protect water quality (§ 1271) and to effectuate that purpose the Act requires the BLM to cooperate with EPA and DEQ to elitninate or diminish water pollution (§ 1283(c)). The Final Revised Guidelines for Management of Riser Areas states that '[r]iver managers will work with local authorities to abate activities within the river area which are degrading or would degrade existing water quality.' 47 Fed. Reg. 39159, September 7. 1982. The BLM should consult with these expert agencies to protect those areas where water quality 'varies with...the management practices in adjacent riparian and upland areas.' Plan EA page 57. The BLM should take action to control those management practices, including livestock grazing, with the purpose of eliminating water pollution. According to *the* American Fisheries Society, *'Rangeland grazing practices* can *affect the water quality characteristics of runoff in a watershed, especially by increasing a stream's turbidity and sediment.' 16(1)* Fisheries 7."

Response:
See response to 2-5B.

3-1

Comment:

"The BLM has an affirmative duty to enhance degraded segments of the River. The BLM also is required to protect not maintain the area in a relative pristine state. The Act states:

> *"Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system...primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetics, scenic, historic, archaeologic, and scientific features.*

"16 U.S.C. 1281(a). The Plan fails to 'protect' and in no way does it 'enhance' the wild values of the River. In U.S. v. Hells Canyon Guide Service, Inc., 660 F.2d 735 (9th Cir. 1981), the Court describe the Act as 'This emphasis on protection permeates these regulatory schemes...' Yet, protection does not permeate this Plan. Instead, grazing and its attendant environmental impact does.

"The Donner und Blitzen River (hereinafter the 'River') was classified as a 'wild' river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Congress defined wild rivers to be:

> *"free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watershed or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.*

"16 U.S.C. 1273(b)(1) (emphasis added). Unfortunately, the impacts from past and present grazing have caused the River's watershed and shorelines to be severely degraded and polluted. This situation requires the BLM to protect the areas that are primitive and unpolluted and enhance the areas that are not.

"The Plan describes the severe impact of grazing management on the River:

> *"From the Little Blitzen Pasture west boundary fence, the river is within the Little Blitzen Meadows Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment for approximately 3.5 miles...Monitoring studies indicate heavy utilization levels within this pasture.*
>
> *"From the confluence of the South Fork of the Blitzen River with the Little Blitzen River, upstream for approximately 3.5 miles cattle graze the Newton Cabin Pasture...Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization along this 3.5 mile stretch.*
>
> *"[W]ithin the Steens Pasture of the South Steens Allotment...Cattle and wild horses concentrate in the meadows along the river as well as the meadows of the tributaries to this segment...This pasture averages 3,600 cattle...Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization levels in this segment of the river corridor and tributaries.*
>
> *"The [5.5 miles from the headwaters to the mouth of Big Indian Gorge not fenced] of this segment is within the Newton Cabin Pasture of the Fish Creek-Big Indian Allotment...Cattle have free access to Indian Creek...Monitoring studies indicate heavy to severe utilization levels in this section.*

"Plan at 27-28. The Plan discloses substantial grazing related problems. However, the Plan continues management as usual, with continued high levels of grazing and more fencing. As shown below, the BLM has completely abdicated its responsibilities under the Act."

Response:

See response to 1-1 and 1-5.

3-2

Comment:

"As mentioned above, monitoring studies indicate that a quarter of Segment B, the entire segment C, and nearly half of Segment D the River's corridors have either heavy or severe gracing impacts (sic). The Plan's response to this devastation would:

> *"Develop grazing systems [AMPs] that maintain and/or enhance habitat for wildlife, fisheries, and riparian condition. Removal of livestock, changing seasons of me, andfencing are management tools which may be used through the development of grazing systems.*
>
> *"Modify grazing systems, reduce, or eliminate livestock grazing from Little Indian Canyon (Segment E) through voluntary suspended non-use or a land-use plan amendment.*
>
> *"Enforce existing enclosures from livestock and wildhorse use within the river corridor.*
>
> *"Work with private landowners in Fish Creek (Segment F) and the south fork of the Donner und Blitzen River (Segment C) to maintain and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values* in *the area.*

"Plan at 61.

"In simple terms the Plan calls for AMPs thnt 'maintain and/or enhance the condition of the River. The term 'maintain' is contrary to the plain meaning and spirit of the Act. This language must be stricken from the Plan. The BLM must 'protect and enhance the River not 'maintain and/or enhance.' Finally, the Plan use of 'maintain and/or enhance' is also contrary to the Act. There is no 'or' in the Act, it also must be stricken.

"In addition, 45% of Segment A has poor or fair riparian conditions. 59% of Segment B has poor or fair riparian conditions. 64% *of Segment C has poor or fair riparian conditions. To simply 'maintain' these areas would run counter to the Act. BLM must enhance these areas.*

"The Plan foils to 'protect and enhance' the River because it does not contain any analysis or detailed plans to meet the horrendous shape of the River system. The lack of specificity in the Plan regarding the removal of livestock and the changing of seasons of use renders the Plan inadequate. To state in general terms that the BLM will develop AMPs that 'maintain and/ or enhance' the condition of the River is not sufficient. This is the site-specific environmental assessment. The environmental assessment must contain the details of how the BLM plans to improve these areas. The deferral of these types of decisions to the AMPs is contrary to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Act. The Plan MUST contain an environmental analysis of how to 'protect and enhance' the River in detail to allow informed agency decision making and allow the public to participate in the process.

"The Plan's attempt at enhancement fails miserably. The Plan's objective to improve the riparian condition of Segment E is commendable, however, Segment E has the best riparian habitat condition of all the River segments (100% of Segment E has good or excellent riparian condition). The BLM must enhance the severely degraded areas, especially Segments A, B and C.

"Working to 'maintain and enhance' only the 'outstandingly remarkable values' of the area is not sufficient. The Plan should emphasize not only the 'outstandingly remarkable values' of the river that is publicly owned, but work with private landowners to itnprove the overall condition of the River.

"In addition, the Plan does not discuss the environmental consequences of the preferred alternative. Further, the Plan states what the preferred alternative would attempt to accomplish, but does not disclose when the objectives would be met. The lack of any analysis of the environmental consequences of the preferred alternative does not allow the public to cotntnent effectively. The deferral of these decisions to a Inter document is contrary to NEPA and the Act. The BLM must sit down and make these difficult decisions. This is the document to do it in. This is the time for those decisions."

Response:

See response to 1-1. The river management plan will protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

3-3

Comment:

"It is shocking that the aquatic habitat inventory reveals that 47% of the overall aquatic habitat is in poor or fair condition, 60% of the river's overall riparian habitat is in poor or fair condition, and nearly 30% of the river corridor is fenced or topography excludes cattle. One can speculate that the only way the BLM could improve the River's riparian and aquatic habitat is to either fence the other 70% of the River or remove the cattle. In this case, the total exclusion of livestock from the river corridor is required since as discussed below the amount of existing fencing is contrary to the Act.

"Instead of making these tough decisions the Plan makes general and optimistic statements which fail to met (sic) the objectives of the Act and the requirements of NEPA. The Management Plan states:

> *"[M]aintain or improve condition of the riparian and aquatic habitat and unique natural areas to good or excellent level throughout the river corridor.*

"Plan at 60. In one simple word: HOW? The Plan states:

> *"Monitor riparian condition and trend within the river corridor and identify conflicting uses. Implement protection and restoration efforts so that at least 75 percent of riparian areas are in good or better ecological condition by 1997.*

"Plan at 61. Again: How???? What staffing levels are sufficient to meet this objective? How is the BLM going to restore the River? How much will it cost?

"The Plan describes the environmental consequences to fish and wildlife include (sic):

> *"Fish and wildlife habitat would be enhanced by the maintenance and/or improvement of riparian condition and aquatic habitat throughout the river corridor...Redband trout and Malheur mottled sculpin will benefit from the development and implementation of a habitat management plan...Negative impacts to fish and wildlife species from consumptive and non-consumptive recreational use within the river corridor have not been determined.*

"Plan at 70. What 'habitat management plan?' The Plan does not include one. Nor does the Plan discuss the present fishing regulations and possible protective measures that could be taken, to protect and enhance the quality oof (sic) the fishing. In fact, the Plan never discusses the overall health of the fishery.

"And what does it mean when the Plan describes the environmental consequences of riparian management as:

> *"All four alternatives outlining impacts to Riparian Management will be similar to Fish and Wildlife Management...Mitigating measures would be the same as described under Fish and Wildlife impacts...As riparian objectives are met, water quality, and to a lesser extent water flows, will be enhanced.*

"Plan at 70. These statements are puzzling. Agencies must evaluate data for themselves. And more importantly, a site-specific environmental assessment MUST include detailed information on the action. Stating that management will be similar to Fish and Wildlife Management is completely inappropriate.

"Finally, the Plan admits that it is within its powers to exclude all livestock from the river corridor. The Management Plan states that alternative 3 would:

> *"Remove all livestock grazing and wild-horse use on public lands within the river corridor through voluntary suspended non-use or a land-use plan amendment.*

"Plan at 61. Alternative 3 is the only alternative that satisfies the Act. However, even Alternative 3 does not analyze the economic and environmental benefits of no grazing in the management area. ONDA believes this would be the best management decision possible under the given circumstances, and that a full disclosure of the costs and consequences to implement Alternative 3 is necessary for public consideration."

Response:
Riparian areas will be managed to protect and enhance the vegetation within these corridors as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The management plan has a 15-year plan to restore riparian areas to an ecological condition of good to excellent.

The management plan is requesting one full-time position to monitor all resources and implement the actions necessary to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values.

3-4

Cvmrnent:
"The amount vffencing in the river corridor is contrary to the (sic) both the letter and the spirit of the Act. The amount of existing fencing is staggering:

> *"Frvrn Page Springs Campground to Rig Springs, vn bvth sides of the river, livestock and wild horses are excluded from the river riparian zone by fencing and tvpvgraphy (approximately 6.5 miles).*
>
> *"West of the Riddle Brothers Ranch to the confluence with the Blitzen River, livestock use is excluded by fencing (completed in the summer of 1991) and tvpvgraphy on the north for approximately 2.5 miles.*
>
> *"From the headwaters to the mouth of Big Indian Gorge (approximately 6 miles), livestock and wild-horse use has been excluded by fencing the mouth of the gorge.*
>
> *"The remaining access [approximately 5.9 miles] from the north tv the creek is within the Frazier Field Allotment which is grazed on a -l-pasture, rest-rotation system with 400 cattle...Topography and fencing keep livestock out of the river bottom.*

"Plan at 27-29. This amount offencing in the river corridor is incompatible with the Act. Of the entire river corridor approximately one-third of the river is fenced (21 miles). Congress intended a wild river to have: 'shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.' 16 U.S.C. 1273(B)(1). One-third of a river that is fenced is a significant detrimental factor to the primitive character of tite river corridor. Enhancement of the river means removing existing fences.

"Furthermore, the Act states:

> *"Each cvmvonent of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that dv nvt substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetics, scenic, historic, archaeologic, and scientific features.*

"16 U.S.C. 1281(a) (emphasis addedj. The Plan allows grazing to dominate the other values of the River. The Act requires the protection of the River not grazing. Fencing is contrary tv the 'primary emphasis...[of] esthetics, scenic' qualities. It is obvious that this degree of fencing detracts from a primitive experience.

"Even the Department of Interior's Management Guidelines and Standards for National Wild and Scenic Rivers (Oregvni Washington), which fall well below the Act's requirements, state: 'occasional fencing...may be permitted if they are unobtrusive and dv not have a significant direct and adverse effect on the natural character of the river area.' Guidelines At 1. Over 20 miles of fence is not *occasional fencing. The BLM must start removing the fencing from the riser corridor, beginning in areas that are the worst for scenic and aesthetics. Furthermore, the Guidelines state: 'The construction and maintenance vf minor structures for protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat are acceptable provided they do not affect...[wild river] classification, [and] that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices of*

structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.' Guidelines at 5. This amount of fencing is not natural or harmonized with the River's environment. The BLM has simply left out a discussion of any such issues. The Plan must explore the removal of ALL the fencing.

"Instead of removing the fence and the livestock, the Plan intends to build more fence. Fencing, in this case, is an inappropriate management tool in a wild river management under the Act.

"Instead of removing the fence and the livestock, the Plan intends to build more fence. Fencing, in this case, is an inappropriate management tool in a wild river managed under the Act.

> *"Management tools which may be used to implement actions within the river corridor include bank stabilization, in-stream structures, fencing...Plan at 59*
>
> *"Develop grazing systems [AMPs] that maintain and/or enhance habitat for wildlife, fisheries, and riparian condition. Removal of livestock, changing seasons of use, and fencing are management tools which may be used through the development of grazing systems. Plan at 61.*
>
> *"As allotment management plans are completed, recommended management tools, which can be used through the development of grazing systems, may include removal of livestock, changing seasons.of use, and fencing.*

"Plan at 71. The only areas where the riparian and aquatic condition of the River are good and better is where the BLM has excluded cattle from the River with fence. Fencing, however, is an unacceptable management tool to protect and enhance the values of the River under the Act. The BLM must formulate a management plan that adequately meets both the Act's objective to improve riparian habitat and to accomplish this without grazing and fencing."

Response:
Under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the existing fences within the river corridor did not keep Congress from designating the Donner und Blitzen River and tributaries as a "Wild River."

Fencing is used as a management tool for protection and enhancement of river values. At the present time, approximately 40 miles of the river corridor is protected from livestock grazing due to topography and fencing.

Additional fencing may be recommended for management of livestock through the coordinated resource management plans for grazing systems. If fencing occurs, it should be outside the river corridor and designed to meet visual resource management requirements.

3-5

Comment:
"Ankle, Deep, and Mud Creeks should be included in the River management area. Ankle, Deep, and Mud Creeks are critical, headwater tributaries to the River. The Plan neglects to include these tributaries in the Plan or the upstream watershed. The Plan should have included them within the River Management Area. Map 1 reveals that the border of River could have extended up into these creeks for protection within the 320 acres limit imposed by the Act.

"In addition, Ankle, Deep, and Mud Creeks are lands that border upon or are adjacent to the River and must be protected. These tributaries, as BLM riparian and aquatic data suggest, are severely degraded, and adversely impact the River. The Plan must discuss these tributaries and the headwater watershed in order to protect the River. The Act states:

> *"The...head of any other Federal department or agency having jurisdiction over any lands which include, border upon, or are adjacent to, any river included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System...shall take such action...as may be necessary to protect such rivers in accordance with the purposes of this chapter...*

16 U.S.C. 1283(a) (emphasis added). This mandate was affirmed by one Court decision which concluded: 'The proposed timber sale, whether conducted on land within the river area's boundaries or adjacent to the river area, will impact protected values.' Wilderness Soc. v. Tyrrel, 918 F.2d 81.3, 819 (9th Cir. 1990) (the timber sale was one-quarter mile away from the River Management Area). See also Thomas I'. Peterson., 589 F. Supp. 1139 (D.C.Mont. 1984)."

Response:
Ankle, Mud, and Deep Creeks were recommended by the Bureau to be included into the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River System.

Due to the large amounts of private lands within these tributaries, Congress did not include them within the system.

Approximately 1 mile of Deep Creek is included into the boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River because of being public land.

Through the Resource Management planning process, the Bureau will study the three tributaries for their suitability into the National Wild and Scenic River System.

3-6

Comment:
"The Plan violates the Act because it neglects to include the Ankle, Deep, and Mud Creeks itt the Management Area. The legislation which designated the Donner und Blitzen Riser a wild river, Congress staled: 'Donner und Blitzen, Oregon - Those segments, including its major tributaries, as wild river, to be administered as follows: [lists follows which excludes the Ankle, Deep and Mud Creeks].' (sic) P.L. 100-557. Ankle, Deep attd Mud are major tributaries. Congress intended the Secretary of Interior to protect and enhance its major tributaries. No other river designated in the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 had such wording included in the designated legislation. The BLM could protect these tributaries while studying them for designation under the Act."

Response:
See response to 3-5.

3-7

Cotntnettt:
"Nothing in ONDA's cotntnents are prohibited by the Act. 16 U.S.C. 1283(b). The existing rights involved in this case are the current grazing permits. Once these permits expire, the BLM could immediately terminate the permits. As mentioned above, the removal of livestock frotn the river corridvr is the most consistent with the Act, and the Plan should dictate that all BLM allotments in the River system should be vacated.

"In the meantime, the permits are subject to changes in the amount of grazing and the areas to be grazed. Again, the Plan should outline exactly how the permits would be altered. Congress established the standard of whether a use 'substantially interferes' with the reasons for the River's designation. 16 U.S.C. 1281(A). Grazing substantially interferes with the reasons why the river was designated. As mentioned before, the only areas where the riparian habitat is good or better is where the river is fenced to exclude livestock. BLM cannot just make the easy decision to allow livestock and then use fencing to minimize the impacts associated with grazing. The best decision would remove the cattle entirely from the river corridvr without fences. The BLM has already removed livestock from the Little Blitzen River and Rig Indian Creek for these very reasons. Now Congress is mandating the entire River be enhanced like the Little Blitzen River and Big Indian Creek."

Response:
See response to l-l.

3-8

Comment:
"The overall failure of this plan to meet the Act's management objectives is illustrated by the Plan statement:

> *"Alternatives...should (1) Provide a wide range of recreational and resource opportunities while minimizing user conflicts and impacts to the natural beauty of the river environment.*

"Plan at 59. This statement explains why this Plan has failed. Alternatives should 'protect and enhance' the river as required by the Act. The Plan does not define what a 'resource opportunity' is. If this is the BLM's attempt to say all alternatives must contain a grazing management policy (i.e., 'resource opportunities') this would violate both NEPA and the Act. The Act does not seek to protect grazing opportunities. As stated in the Department of Interior's Management Guidelines and Standards for National Wild and Scenic Rivers (Oregon/Washington):

> *"Management objectives for wild areas should give primary emphasis to protecting the values which make it outstanding (sic) remarkable while providing river-related outdoor recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.*

"This River was not designated by Congress because it provided good forage for grazing. Congress designated it to protect and enhance its wild and primitive characteristics. The BLM must plan accordingly."

Response:
The Blitzen River and its tributaries will be managed to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values as required in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The final management plan outlines ways to achieve these actions and mandates.

3-9

Comment:
"The Plan fails to include site-specific information on a proposed 80-acre campground to facilitate river users. The Management Plan states:

> *"Develop an 80-acre campground (outside the river corridor) along the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road...to provide a camping/staging area...Estimate capacity would be 30-40 developed sites...*

"Plan at 62. This is the only information included in the EA. Where exactly do you to (sic) build this site? Do you plan to build restroom facilities? What other facilities are planned? The BLM cannot defer these questions to another EA."

Response:
See response to 1-3.

3-10

Comment:
"The Plan neglects existing open roads, and fails to address the real issues of motorized use in the River management area. The Department of Interior guidelines state:

> *"No new roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel would be permitted with in (sic) a narrow incised river valley or, if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the river bank. A few inconspicuous roads leading to the boundary of the river area and unobtrusive trail bridges may be permitted...Motorized travel over land or water...is generally not compatible with [wild] river classification. Normally, motorized use will be prohibited in a wild river area.*

"Guidelines at 2. Yet, the Plan does not disclose existing roads that have a tremendous impact on the River, such as 'Tombstone' road, 'Burnt Car' road, and most important the road to Cold Springs. These roads are used extensively and allow vehicles to penetrate the River management area.

"The Plan also neglects off-highway vehicle use in the area. The Management Plan states:

> *"Maintain approximately 5 miles of existing access road into Segments C and D for motorized vehicle use. This will require reconstructing* the *low* wafer *ford* riser crossing *at Indian Creek to stabilize the banks.*

"Plan at 62. Finally, the proposed road closure is fallacious. It is already not in use due to topography."

Response:
See response to I-2 and I-3.

Roads which ure outside the river corridor are managed under existing regulations for access. Under the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan Amendment all access on the Steens is being addressed.

3-11

Comment:
"The BLM's operation of irrigated meadow is egregious. The BLM should not be in the business of using critical water to feed privately owned cattle. The Management Plan states:

> *"The 80.4 acres of meadows along the Little Blitzen Riser within the Riddle Brothers Ranch Historic District will continue to be irrigated as outlined in the Riddle Brothers Ranch Historic District CRMP.*

"Plan at 66. The BLM should not be in the farming business. It creates an artificial situation that is contrary to maintaining the primitive character. It is definitely not historic. There are no objectives met by this action except to provide forage for livestock. This planning document is *where the BLM should change the past decision in the Riddle Brother (sic) CRMP, due to Congress' mandate to protect and enhance the River."*

Response:
See response to 1-4.

3-12

Comment:
"Congress intended that the federal agency would aggressively pursue water rights to wild and scenic rivers. Unfortunately, the BLM does not include any analysis of water rights. The Management Plan states:

> *"New water rights and project proposals will evaluated on their potential to affect the attributes which made the river eligible as a Wild and Scenic River.*

"Plan at 66. What water rights have been appropriated? Is the flow of the river sufficient to protect and enhance the river? In these times of drought, the BLM should be actively seeking to protect and enhance the River through the acquisition of water rights and dedicating them for instream use."

Response:
See response to I-4.

3-13

Comment:
"The plan fails to address the River's relationship with wilderness. The BLM has recommended to Congress wilderness designation within the River system, but the Plan does not discuss such designation. 16 U.S.C. 1281(b) states:

> *"Any portion of a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system that is within the national wilderness preservation system, as established by or pursuant to the Wilderness Act, shall be subject to the provisions of both the Wilderness Act and this chapter with respect to preservation of such river and its immediate environment, and in case of conflict between the provisions of the Wilderness Act and this chapter the more restrictive provisions should apply.*

"Even though Congress considers the Wilderness Act and the Act as complimentary, the BLM does not even consider the thousands of acres which will be impacted by its recommendation for wilderness."

Response:
Detailed information on Wilderness Study Areas is available by referring to the Final Oregon Statewide Environmental Impact Statement, 12-89, Volume III. Volume III contains the detail writeups for each of the Wilderness Study Areas (pages 427-557)."

On July 22, 1992, President Bush sent to Congress the "Oregon Public Lands Wilderness Act."

3-14

Comment:
"The Plan only mentions the fact that the BLM expended resources on involving the public in the Plan's creation. Yet, the Plan makes not (sic) disclosure of the results of this procedure. The BLM should have included all comments and opinions, and the BLM response to these comments."

Response:
See response to 2-9.

4-1

Comment:
"Rest the West, Inc. is a non-profit Oregon corporation, with its principal place of business at Portland, Multnomah county. Rest the West, Inc. is dedicated to protecting our western ecosystems from all harmful effects of livestock grazing. Since its inception in June, 1991, Rest the West has made the elimination of public lands livestock grazing its only priority. Some Rest the West members have a long history of administrative level challenges to Bureau of Land Management actions in the Burns District. Rest the West members use the Donner und Blitzen River for outdoor recreation of all kinds, including hiking, writing, and quiet appreciation of aesthetic beauty. Numerous members own land in close proximity to the Donner und Blitzen River. The Bureau of Land Management's unlawful actions adversely affect Rest the West, Inc.'s organizational interests, as well as its members' use and enjoyment of the public lands. Rest the West, Inc. brings this action on its own behalf and on behalf of its adversely affected members."

Response:
See responses to 2-1, 2-11, 3-1, and 3-14.

4-2

Comment:
"Oregon Wildlife Federation, Inc. is a non-profit Oregon corporation, with its principal place of business at Portland, Multnomah County. Oregon Wildlife Federation, Inc. is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, the nation's

largest conservation organization. Oregon Wildlife Federation, Inc. has over 500 members and supporters statewide. Oregon Wildlife Federation, Inc. is dedicated to the conservation and wise use of all of Oregon's natural resources, including ifs forests, wafers, air, wildlife and soil. Oregon Wildlife Federation, Inc. has participated extensively in administrative actions to protect our public lands within the Bureau of Land Management's Burns District from environmen tally damaging plans and activities. Its members use the Donner und Blitzen Riser for outdoor recreation of all kinds, including hiking, camping, writing, and appreciation of fhe area's astounding aesthetic beauty. The Bureau of Land Management's proposed unlawful actions adversely affect Oregon Wildlife Federation's organizational interests, as well as ifs members' use and enjoyment of the Donner und Blitzen River. OWF joins this action on its own behalf and on behalf of its adversely affected members."

Response:
See responses to 2-1, 2-11, 3-1, and 3-14.

5-1

Comment:
"Page 4, Fisheries. Add redside shiner to the fish species in the Blitzen Riser. In the same paragraphwe suggest you change fhe wording to . . . 'the redband trout is the most common sport species found.'"

Response:
Comments have been included in the final plan under 'Fisheries."

5-2

Comment:
'Page 57, Water. ODFW has appliedfor instream water rights within the proposed boundaries. They are for the following streams: S.F. Blitzen R., Ankle Cr., Rig Indian Cr., Little Indian Cr., Little Blitzen R., Fish Cr. As with the BLM application for a wafer right at the Riddle Ranch property, Wafer Resources Department has not made a determination on the applications."

Response:
Comments have been included in the final plan under "Water Quality.,"

5-3

Comment:
"Page 61, *Riparian Management,* paragraph *4. It is hard to determine* from *#he document what percent of the riparian* ureas *are currently in 'good or better ecological condition (sic) It appears you may be already meeting fhaf objective if the whole area is included. There arc certainly areas that are considerably below that objective. The 75% should be at kasf tied to river segments. A time line should also be included to show when a higher goal will be reachedfor example, 90% by year 'X' (sic")*

Response:
See response to 3-3.

5-4

Comment:
'Page 61, Grazing Management. We encourage you to include mention of improving herd management of wild horses in the South Steens Herd Management Areas. In the past horse numbers have been allowed to build to unacceptaby (sic) high levels before herds were reduced resulting in unacceptbly (sic) high damage to riparian areas. We nre encouraged to see mention of changing all livestock grazing to improve range and riparian condition. We encourage you to put a time line on when changes in grazing systems will occur."

Response:
Wild horses within the river corridor are recommended to be managed on a condition to protect riparian and uplands with herd numbers designated in the Andrews Resource Area Management Framework Plan.

A timeline of 15 years for protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values, such as fish and wildlife and vegetation are recommended in the final plan.

5-5

Comment:
"Page 62, Recreation Facility Developements/Road Maintanence (sic). Staging areas at Blitzen Crossing and Little Blitzen Canyon should provide for overnight parking for those wanting to travel into the canyons to camp."

Response:
See response to 1-2. The final plan recommends that the staging/parking area at Blitzen Crossing be managed as day use only, no overnight parking.

5-6

Comment:
"Page 62, Road Maintenance. When the new campground is developed at Big Indian a trailhead should be established at the campground. The trail on into Big Indian Canyon should then be closed to all vehicle traffic (P Primitive)."

Response:
See response to 1-3.

5-7

Comment:
"Page 66, Water Quality/Quantity. As stated above ODFW has applied for instream water rights, including one on the Little Blitzen for which BLM has also applied. ODFW will comment on water right applications to provide protection for fish and wildlife values."

Response:
See response to 1-4.

6-1

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 10(a), requires 'protection and enhancement' of the outstandingly remarkable values. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas, Federal Register, Vol. 47 So. 173, Section III, requires that management strategies 'always be designed to protect and enhance the values of the river areas.'

"However, in the Plan the management objective 'maintain and enhance' is, at times, substituted for 'protect and enhance.' For example, throughout the 'Resource Protection' section (pages 60 to 67) phrases such as 'maintain or improve' and 'maintain and where necessary restore' are used.

"Congress has directed the agency to protect and enhance outstandingly remarkable values and the Bureau of Land Management must not substitute a different objective. By substituting the language the BLM risks the integrity of the Plan in light of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Plan should say 'protect and enhance' in all places where it currently says 'maintain and/or enhance.' More importantly, all management activities must be designed to protect and enhance the ORV's.

"This distinction is important. The protection standard is the manager's first goal, and any proposed activity must conform to full scale protection. The language from the Federal Register is that 'this section [10(a) of the Act] is interpreted as stating a non-degradation and enhancement policy, regardless of classification' (p. 39458)."

Response:
The Blitzen River und its tributaries will be manuged to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

This language is used throughout the final plan.

6-2

"Section 10(a) of the Act states: 'In such administration (of wild and scenic rivers) primary emphasis will be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeologic, and scientific features.' To conform with the Act, the Plan must protect and enhance these features first.

"However, the Plan emphasis is shifted from the scenic, geologic, fisheries, wildlife, and vegetation resources to the recreation resource. While we realize that recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value and therefore receives protection and enhancement, this must not be done to the detriment of the other outstandingly remarkable values. For example, under Alternative 1 on page 59 the Plan states, 'Facility development and recreational opportunities also will be designed and managed with protection and enhancement of the resources in mind,'

"Furthermore, we are concerned that greater detail (and therefore greater emphasis) is given to the 'Recreation Development/ Visitor Management' section than to all the other ORV's. These examples imply that primary emphasis will be given to development of recreation. This must be rectified to assure that the Plan meets the requirements of the Act."

Response:
The final plan has reduced the emphasis on recreation and placed more emphasis on the protection and enhancement of resource values such us fish and wildlife, vegetation, scenic, geologic, and cultural resources.

Recreational activities can occur, but protection and enhancement of resource values comes first.

6-3

Comment:
"The basic premise of a Wild and Scenic Management Plan is to look toward the future and design management steps that will lead to that future. Unfortunately, the Plan, as written, does not do this.

"Without this inform&ion, the Plan loses its strength over time because there is no clear goal to work toward. ORC recoinmends that a section on desiredfuture conditions be included in the Plan. It is important that the future conditions be described in such a fashion that specific, quantitative measurements can be used to determine whether the desired conditions are being met (see below)."

Response:
Desired future conditions are discussed in the final plan under fish and wildlife and riparian management. A 15-year implementation plan to restore and protect river-related values to a condition of good to excellent is recommended.

In order to comply with this, changes to grazing management will have to be made within the river corridor.

6-4

Comment:

"The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas, Federal Register, Vol. 47 No. 173, Section III, requires that 'studies...be made during preparation of the management plan and periodically thereafter to determine the quantity and mixture of recreation and other public use which can be permitted without adverse impact on the resource values.'

"The Wild and Scenic Management Plan Outline as recommended by the USDI, Bureau of Land Management/USDA, Forest Service/State of Oregon, includes Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) as a methodology for determining the mix of activities that may be implemented without degrading the ORV's. Part IV of the outline, Management Goals and Objectives, includes LAC in defining objectives for each segment. Part V, Management Actions, includes LAC in identifying and determining management actions. The Plan must detail and integrate the analysis methodologies.

"This is especially important because of the need to look toward desired future conditions (as discussed in Part C of this letter)."

Response:

The final plan recommends that the Limits of Acceptable Change system be set up for each river segment. These indicators and standards will be set up during the summer of 1993. Once indicators and standards are set, frequency of monitoring will be determined.

6-5

Comment:

"ORC is concerned that the environmental impacts on fish and wildlife have not yet been completely evaluated. The Plan states, 'Negative impacts to fish and wildlife species from consumptive and non-consumptive recreational use within the river corridor have not been determined.' (P. 70)

"It is inappropriate for the Environmental Assessment to be released without a final assessment of the environmental impacts of recreation management on the other resources. Any Management Plan that is premised on an incomplete Environmental Assessment does not fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1970. Furthermore, we recommend that the cultural resources inventory be completed before the Plan is released."

Response:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for the consumptive use of fish and wildlife within the State of Oregon. They set seasons, bag limits, and control number of hunters.

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor nonconsumptive impacts from recreation on fish and wildlife through the Limits of Acceptable Change Program and by monitoring specific species and habitat within the river condition.

The management plan describes impacts to different resources under the Environmental Consequences Section (Chapter 5). The final plan shows the changes to the environmental assessment in bold, italic type and also describes impacts to resources.

Monitoring, conducting additional inventories, and updating the database for the river corridor will help in managing impacts to the environment.

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