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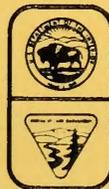
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SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUGUST 30, 1985



Boise District
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

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INTRODUCTION

This management plan for the Snake River Birds of Prey Area (SRBOPA or Birds of Prey Area) summarizes provisions, actions and guidelines for managing the natural resources and activities within it. The area was established by Public Land Order 5777 (PLO 5777) in November, 1980, by the Secretary of the Interior "... to protect and maintain the ecosystem necessary to support and perpetuate the densest and most diverse populations of eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey ever recorded. The withdrawal would permit development and use of other resources in the area under a multiple-use and sustained-yield concept, so long as such uses were not detrimental to the raptor populations or their habitat."

The intent of this plan is to describe management goals for the Birds of Prey Area (Maps 1 and 2) and resource programs within it and, based on present data and knowledge, provide guidelines and directions within which activities may occur or be carried out. All site specific actions will have environmental analysis reviews with full public participation prior to issuance of management decisions. Any provisions of this management plan may be carried out through the development and implementation of contractual or cooperative agreements with appropriate agencies, organizations, or individuals, subject to the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

In 1982, the priorities for managing the SRBOPA were outlined by BLM through development of a Mission and Goals statement. This statement is a succinct synthesis of managerial philosophy for the area as previously expressed in the Snake River Birds of Prey Final Environmental Impact Statement and elsewhere. It is an integral part of the Management Framework Plans (MFPs) for the Bruneau Resource Area (BRA) and received extensive public review during that planning process.

The Mission and Goal statement recognizes (1) the uniqueness of the SRBOPA for birds of prey and the prey upon which they depend; (2) that many other resource uses and activities are compatible with management of the area for birds of prey and will be continued or accommodated; (3) that based upon need, further research and studies may be conducted to better enable BLM to manage these resources and uses and; (4) that BLM has a responsibility to make management and research information available to others.

Table 1. Threshold numbers for raptors nesting in the Birds of Prey Area

Species	Survey Range	Minimum Expected Number of Nesting Pairs
Golden Eagle	29-35	29
Prairie Falcon	185-209	185
Red-tailed Hawk	50-71	50
Ferruginous Hawk	14-19	14
Northern Harrier	86 (one year survey only)	**
Kestrel	22-44*	**
Raven	99-129	99
Long-Eared Owl	47-64	47
Barn-Owl	40-69*	40
Great Horned Owl	11-44*	**
Burrowing Owl	10-24*	**
Western Screech-Owl	1-11*	**
Short-Eared Owl	0-2*	**
Swainson's Hawk	0-1*	**
Turkey Vulture	1-2*	**

* Incomplete survey data.

** Insufficient information to establish management target.

Perpetuation of the nesting raptor populations will be accomplished through habitat management measures to:

protect existing nesting areas from detrimental human and physical disturbance.

mitigate the loss of nest sites due to human activity and improve public land nesting habitat.

protect prey habitat from physical damage and vegetation community changes due to uncontrolled or excessive recreational activities (see Part II), fires (see Part III) and the invasion of undesirable exotic plants.

rehabilitate or enhance prey habitat altered by fire or physical disturbance.

take advantage of opportunities to acquire unprotected prey habitat within the area through exchange, purchase or donation.

Perpetuation of raptor numbers will be accomplished through actions designed to:

minimize and reduce direct sources of mortality due to powerline electrocution of raptors, shooting and the destruction of nests and loss of young from vandalism and unintentional but controllable actions.

minimize indirect sources of mortality due to disturbance from human activities such as undue human presence around nests, firearms discharge during the nesting season, airspace intrusion by aircraft during the nesting season and construction activities determined likely to adversely impact nesting success.

support U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game efforts to improve numbers of threatened, endangered or sensitive species of raptors currently or previously endemic to the SRBOPA.

GOAL 2: Provide for other compatible uses in the Area.

Historically, a number of resource uses and other human activities have occurred within the BOP Area with no apparent long term detrimental impacts to the nesting raptors or their prey. Livestock grazing, military training, recreation, education, research, mineral exploration and extraction, and other purposes will continue to be authorized. Activities which might diminish the BOP Area's uniqueness will be constrained to comply with the objective of Goal 1.

Because a multitude of activities and uses occur at many locations within the Area, measures needed to comply with Goal 1 vary substantially and on a case-by-case basis. "Appropriate stipulations" or "stipulations" as used in the following discussion refers to tailoring protective measures to individual activities, projects, uses or locations. Identification of other compatible resource uses in the SRBOPA will be made in this and other appropriate land use plans. Present and known potential land uses and management programs, other than those discussed in Parts II through VIII are addressed below.

Vegetation Management: Vegetation use and management for other resource uses (livestock, wildlife, recreation, watershed, etc.) may be authorized when such management will either benefit or have no adverse impact on the nesting raptor population.

Locatable and Salable Minerals: The key cliff and canyon nesting areas for the birds of prey are included in an area designated as "essential nesting habitat" which extends from approximately the Guffey Bridge upstream to Hammett. That portion of the Area is withdrawn from location or entry under the Mining Laws of 1872, as amended and supplemented, subject to valid existing rights at the time the SRBOPA withdrawal was issued in 1980 (approximately 64,000 acres). Salable commodities such as sand, cinders and gravel will continue to be made available with appropriate stipulations.

Lands Program Management: For purposes of this section, lands actions are divided into Rights-of-Way and Land Acquisition and Disposition.

A. Rights-of-Way: Existing rights-of-way will be reviewed at the end of their authorized effective period and may be either regranted or modified to accommodate the needs of the grantee or BLM management, notwithstanding the legal rights of either party under FLPMA. New rights-of-way will be issued under the authority and provisions of FLPMA, with appropriate stipulations for the protection of raptors and prey and their habitats.

B. Land Acquisition and Disposition: Land acquisition and disposition are conducted under the provisions of Title II of FLPMA. Any such actions will be pursued only when deemed in the best interests of the resources in the area and/or the nation.

B(1). Land exchanges and Recreation and Public Purposes Act actions will continue to be conducted. Exchanges will be allowed only if higher quality habitat can be acquired within the SRBOPA and such exchanges are in the public interest.

B(2). During the effective period of the withdrawal, all lands within the Area are withdrawn from entry, application, or selection under the Desert Land Act, the Carey Act, and the State of Idaho Admissions Act. All pending applications for land in the SRBOPA which were filed under these acts will be rejected following development of a plan and timetable for this action.

B(3). BLM will put together a lands acquisition/easement proposal in 1986 for acquiring significant lands or public access within the SRBOPA.

Habitat Management for Other Wildlife: Habitat management for non-raptorial and non-prey species will continue to be an ongoing program. These efforts are oriented primarily toward preparation and implementation of a C. J. Strike Habitat Management Plan in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Paleontological Resource Management: Paleontological resource management is a relatively recent program for the Bureau of Land Management, with limited official guidance. Efforts are presently directed at inventory and protection of paleontological sites, with some interpretive and public information programs being implemented. Because the SRBOPA has relatively rich and widespread paleontological resources, a Paleontological Resource Management Plan (PRMP) will be prepared in FY-87. Hobby collection of all vertebrate orders other than fish is not allowed. All vertebrate collection efforts require special permits issued through the National Park Service. In exchange for turning vertebrate fossils in to BLM, finders are presently and will continue to be awarded molded duplicates of the fossils.

GOAL 3: Coordinate and conduct research and studies to support management needs.

Research to date has been directed primarily at determining the raptor resources here and the prey and prey habitat necessary to support the raptor population. Future BLM research efforts will be designed and conducted to provide information needed for habitat management within the SRBOPA. "Habitat" is used here in its broadest interpretation and includes not only physical elements, but such things as nest security, level of disturbance, etc. To enable attainment of Goal 1, it is necessary to determine if the raptor population is perpetuating itself, which factors influence population stability and how to best obtain needed management information.

The BLM will therefore either initiate or coordinate research and study efforts to obtain information necessary for making resource management decisions. Population stability and related habitat conditions will be determined through monitoring of raptor and prey populations and vegetation communities in the SRBOPA. These activities are further discussed in Part VIII: Ecosystem Monitoring, Research and Studies.

GOAL 4: Make available to the public, other agencies, and the scientific community knowledge gained from management and research activities.

To obtain the greatest public benefits from time and dollar investments in research and management programs, the results of these efforts will be actively disseminated to various interest groups. Technical and general interest information will be presented or made available through publications, formal presentations, electronic media and oral and written requests. Some of the benefits accruing from such an information program include:

better management decisions based on more thorough knowledge of likely post-decision impacts;

better understanding of raptor-prey-habitat interrelationships by the technical and non-technical publics;

increased visitor satisfaction from a knowledge of the resources here and;

how to best enjoy and protect them at the same time, with a better understanding of the significance of raptors not only here, but everywhere---historically, economically, functionally, scientifically and culturally.

Activities conducted under Goal 4 fall into three general categories: (1) the dissemination of general information about the SRBOPA, (2) visitor services and (3) the dissemination of technical information gained through management and research efforts. Prompt response to all information and public program requests relating to the SRBOPA and its resources will continue to be emphasized.

General information: This element is continuous in nature, and BLM efforts are generally oriented to an "on request" basis. Information and public program requests are coordinated through the Bruneau Resource Area. Current published information such as maps and interpretive brochures will be kept available as funding permits to meet public requests for such material. A revised interpretive brochure is in the process of being printed and should be available in October, 1985.

Public information programs such as audio-visual presentations, interpretive tours, and assistance with school and other educational efforts will continue to be accommodated as time and funding permit. The interest in and requests for BLM participation in these programs have grown tremendously over the past few years. These public information and education efforts are a key element in controlling and reducing both present and future adverse impacts to the ecosystem resulting from increased visitor use.

Visitor Services: Visitor services for the SRBOPA are oriented toward in-area public contacts through visitor management facilities (parking areas, interpretive signs, information kiosks, user facilities) and public use supervision patrols by uniformed personnel. These programs are discussed under Part II: Recreation and Part V: Cultural Resources.

Technical Information: This type of information will be disseminated by publication of research results in scientific literature, publication of technical notes through BLM, workshop and civic presentations, and oral and written response to day-to-day inquiries.

Part II: Recreation

Recreation resources and activities will be managed to be consistent with the primary goal of protection of the raptors and their habitat. Implementation of the following actions will provide the area with necessary resource protection and at the same time allow for public enjoyment of those resources. Action items and priorities for implementing the recreation management program are:

1. Visitor use patterns will be managed to minimize the effects of visitor disturbance on nesting raptor productivity. Within this limitation, the primary recreation objective is to manage for nature study related to the birds of prey resource and for archaeological and scenic sightseeing opportunities. The plan attempts to provide these opportunities without displacing current recreation users.
2. Emphasis will be on informational and interpretive efforts rather than facility developments or improvements, except for those facilities or actions necessary for a) informational/interpretive needs, b) resource protection needs and/or c) public safety needs.
3. Management of other recreational uses already occurring in the Area (fishing, camping, sightseeing, petroglyph visitation, etc.) will emphasize improvement of access to and sanitation at and around existing attractions, consistent with the above.
4. Scenic and cultural resource values will be conserved and managed for public enjoyment.

Initial emphasis is directed at meeting resource protection needs through actions intended to correct significant existing problems within the most heavily used area, between Grand View and Walters Ferry (see Map 1). These actions will consist of a combination of the following:

- 1) Public information and education programs
- 2) In-area public use supervision patrols
- 3) Providing recreational developments designed to channel visitor use to areas where visitors can have broad opportunities to enjoy the area while at the same time having minimal impacts upon it.

Attention will then be focused on other areas of management need and opportunity.

Six recreation management issues and actions necessary to deal with them were identified. The issues are:

Issue 1: Visitor Management and Resources Protection. Actions developed in conjunction with this issue are designed to correct problems resulting from largely uncontrolled recreation use areawide, but especially within and along the canyon between Swan Falls and the Guffey railroad bridge. Ease of vehicular access to this portion of the canyon has and continues to result in both intentional and unintentional damage to natural and cultural resources, littering, sanitation problems, vandalism of property, violation of regulations, unnecessary disturbance to nesting raptors and other wildlife and unnecessary hazards to the recreating public. The solitude otherwise present in parts of the area is often interrupted by the sounds of motorcycles.

Lack of sustained enforcement of ORV and other regulations because of (1) insufficient personnel for patrolling the area and maintaining an adequate visitor management program and (2) diversion of employee efforts from recreation use supervision to other high priority work in the district.

Issue 2: Visitor Safety. Visitors to the SRBOPA are exposed to a variety of real and potential hazards, some of which can be dealt with effectively through a comprehensive visitor information program. The risks from other hazards can only be dealt with through restriction of access and timely use supervision efforts. Four general categories of hazards faced by visitors are:

natural biological hazards (rattlesnakes, scorpions, ticks, badgers, poisonous plants, raptors defending nests, unsafe natural water sources),

natural physical hazards (vertical cliffs and falling rocks, boating hazards--rapids, winds and currents, hypothermia and heat stress),

human caused biological hazards (uncontrolled human waste disposal (which is controllable to a large degree), presence of pesticides and fertilizers in runoff irrigation waters (not under BLM control)) , and

human caused physical hazards (military training area proximity, firearms discharge by recreational shooters, throwing of rocks over cliffs, off-road vehicle use of areas frequented by pedestrians, unsafe driving practice on roads in the area, air operations near Mountain Home Air Force Base).

Issue 3: Recreational Developments and Access. Thousands of people use federal and non-federal lands and waters within the SRBOPA each year. Around C. J. Strike dam and upstream from it, visitor management facilities are generally adequate for present and immediate future needs and use levels. However from Grand View downstream to the Walters Ferry crossing on the Snake River, a variety of problems and needs exists due to unaccommodated and largely uncontrolled recreation use. Without active efforts to correct existing problems and manage projected increases in visitor use to reduce future problems, the situation will likely worsen.

Issue 4: Visitor Information. Visitor interest in the SRBOPA has increased substantially in recent years due to events and publicity related to 1) the area itself and attempts to have it designated as a National Conservation Area, 2) general increased public interest in non-game wildlife, 3) construction of the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, 4) general population growth in the Boise area, 5) promotion of the SRBOPA by State and local community and business interests and 6) the raptor biology program at Boise State University (BSU) are increasing the need for a comprehensive visitor information program to ensure resource protection.

Issue 5: Compatibility of Land Uses. Since raptor and prey populations and the habitat they depend upon for existence have priority for managing uses of the land, actions for meeting recreation needs will be guided and constrained by actions, policies, programs necessary to ensure the perpetuation of the raptors and their prey. The objective of providing recreation opportunities in settings ranging from semi-primitive non-motorized to roaded natural could similarly result in conflicts with or constraints on some other land uses in order to maintain these settings

Issue 6: Area Monitoring, Use Supervision and Administration. The SRBOP Area and attendant programs provide the BLM with an excellent opportunity to manage visitor use within a nationally significant area in a manner which will complement the values for which the area was established. To date, the Bureau's management of recreation use has not been adequate due to erratic program funding and shifting of priorities, particularly in the absence of Congressional direction in the form of legislation. These actions have occurred with respect to not only the recreation program, but to other programs which either influence the recreation program or are influenced by it such as lands, wildlife, cultural resources, and others. If a reasonable recreation management program is to be implemented in the SRBOPA there must be long-term stability in funding, personnel assigned and program emphasis by the recreation subactivity.

Management Actions to Resolve Issues

For each of the six issues addressed, a series of management actions was identified as necessary to meet recreation and resource management objectives. Some management actions identified for a particular issue will resolve concerns addressed in one or more of the other issues. General locations for most of the proposed recreation actions within the BPNA are shown on Map 3.

Issue 1. Action 1.1: Some roads would be upgraded within the area to provide the public access to key observation and use areas while minimizing disturbance to raptors and to establish a more orderly flow of visitor traffic in the area. Other roads would be closed for resource protection or public safety purposes. Maps 4 and 5 show the locations of specific improvement/closure actions within the BPNA:

1.1A. Close the spur road between the Swan Falls road and the 1971 BPNA dedication site on the canyon rim and the road parallel to the canyon rim accessed by the spur road. A parking lot adjacent to the Swan Falls road and an interpretive trail leading to the canyon rim would be constructed so that visitors would be able to continue viewing the canyon from this location. This action is already partially implemented.

1.1B. Improve to an all-weather low speed gravel road the river access road upstream of the E. T. Evans ranch in Canyon County. Improve that portion from the Evans ranch cattleguard upstream to approximately the section line between sections 31 and 32 in T 1 S, R 1 W. Replace the substandard cattleguard on this road with a 12 foot concrete base cattleguard. Construct a parking area at that location and close the road through the "boulder field" at that point. Gravel small parking areas (20' x 20') at heavily used spots along this road where people now pull off to the side of the road to park while fishing.

This road receives a great deal of public use but difficulty in passing over it and traversing the boulder field has resulted in several parallel ruts, erosion and damage to cultural resource sites. In addition, the road is extremely narrow in spots, squeezed between boulders on one side and the Snake River on the other, posing the very real hazard of vehicle rollovers into the Snake River. Primary recreation activities in this area are fishing, hunting (legal open season), visits to petroglyph fields and Halverson Bar cultural resource sites, hiking, horseback riding and the like. Graveling of small parking areas will help reduce erosion and damage to cultural resources by reducing the amount of indiscriminate off-road parking.

1.1C. Improve to low speed gravel road status the road on the north side of the Snake River downstream of the Idaho Power Company (IPCo) property at Swan Falls to the USGS gauging station across from Wees Bar in Section 35, T 1 S, R 1 W, contingent upon IPCo making similar improvement to the same road where it traverses their property below Swan Falls dam. Close the road downstream from the Initial Butte Farms pump station. Gravel small parking areas at popular fishing locations.

This road receives heavy public use, primarily by fishermen and sightseers. It has many of the same problems as the road mentioned in Action 1.1B, including that of being extremely narrow immediately adjacent to the river below the pump station. The improvements to river access as a result of the reconstruction of the Swan Falls grade road will only aggravate problems already existing with and along this road. Encouraging people to use gravelled parking areas will help reduce erosion and damage to cultural resources by reducing the amount of indiscriminate off-road parking.

1.1D. Install signs posting the access road to the Priest Ranch as unsuitable for low-clearance two-wheel drive vehicles.

Severe erosion occurs on the access road in Section 18 of this township which results in unsuitable road conditions for low-clearance two-wheel drive vehicles. Any such vehicles trying to negotiate this road are certain to get stuck below the grade due to rocks and dust.

1.1E. Permanently close the road which traverses the canyon wall in Section 33, T 1 S, R 1 W.

This road is extremely rough and passable by four-wheel drive vehicle only. It is already listed in the Federal Register as being closed but this closure is not enforced. Access to this road at the top of the canyon is through private land on an unimproved road. Improvement of the roads in 1.1B and 1.1C will more than assure visitor access to the area of the canyon this road now serves. Because this road is used only by four-wheel drive and other ORVs, it contributes to ORV damage created around Halverson Lake and sand dunes by encouraging ORV use there.

1.1F. Expand the year-round closure to motor vehicles off of designated routes in the BPNA to include all of the essential nesting habitat. In FY-86 prepare a detailed map of roads proposed for closure and formally present the proposal for public review and comment.

This action is consistent with maintaining the road closure in the BPNA to protect nesting raptors and cultural resources, and to prevent soil erosion. All existing consistently used public roads would remain open, with appropriate signing installed.

1.1G. Close the Halverson sand dunes to ORV use by placing huge basalt rocks at the base of the dunes and signing the area.

This action will help resolve some public safety and erosion problems, as well as lessen disturbance to raptors nesting in the vicinity. In the past, signing efforts to control ORV use and limit subsequent damage have been unsuccessful. Several near-misses have occurred between pedestrians on the dunes and ORVs trying to climb the dunes. Enforcement actions may also be needed to effect this closure. Such closure is consistent with the "Limited" ORV designation for this area.

1.1H. Coordinate/work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to acquire fishermen access easement through the Frisch Property (T 1 S, R 1 W, Section 25).

This road is presently the only practical way for people without high-clearance vehicles to gain ready access to Halverson Lake, a popular fishing spot. The route goes right between the Frisch house and barn resulting in substantial traffic through the property. There is presently no legal public access through the Frisch property other than that established through public use over time. If Action 1.1B can be accomplished however, that upgraded road would provide ready access to Halverson Lake and therefore any need for the existing travel route through the Frisch property would be reduced or possibly eliminated.

1.1I Install lockable gates on both ends of the the Cabin Draw road to eliminate all traffic except that for emergency and administrative purposes.

Unrestricted vehicle access to Cabin Draw has resulted in cutting of trees for firewood and in littering problems. Several of these trees are or were used for raptor nesting and roosting.

1.2: Continue the Sikes Act cooperative law enforcement agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

1.3: Designate as primary visitor use sites and create improved parking areas at the following five locations:

- (1) the 1971 dedication site (Map 5 and Illustration 1).
- (2) the upstream terminus of the improved road to Halverson Bar (Map 4).
- (3) the top of the Swan Falls grade north of the river (Map 5).
- (4) in T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Section 22, on the east side of the Snake River at the boat launching area described in Action 1.4 (Map 7 and Illustration 2).

Designated parking areas at these locations will serve to focus present helter-skelter parking and minimize disturbance to nesting raptors and degradation of prey and riparian habitats. At area 1 it will establish an overlook control point and at area 4 will solve a mass public confusion problem about where to park on public lands when boating through the SRBOPA (some parking is currently unintentional trespass on private lands). All will establish predictable and directed visitor use patterns to facilitate management. Portions of this action are already being implemented at areas 1 and 4, above.

1.4A. Install a gravelled boat launching area for small watercraft on the east side of the Snake River in T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Section 22 (Map 7 and Illustration 2).

Much public uncertainty exists as to where to launch boats for float trips through the SRBOPA, especially near Grand View, and boaters unknowingly frequently trespass on private land for launching and parking and may or may not choose a safe launch site. Designated launching and pull-out areas will eliminate the sometimes hazardous conditions boaters face when launching and taking-out at likely-looking but unsafe locations. Much of this action (1.4A) has already been implemented but some completion work is necessary.

1.4B. Install a gravelled boat pull-out area for small watercraft either at the Guffey Bridge on the north side of the river or in T. 1 S., R. 2 W., Section 28, on the south side of the river (Map 4). Launching areas and portage trails in the vicinity of Swan Falls dam will be improved as a result of work by IPCo in conjunction with reconstruction of the dam and powerplant. Minimal gravelling of a pullout area will enable float-boaters to avoid the flat-water slow progress area between Guffey Bridge and Walters Ferry, particularly during windy weather when downstream progress becomes impossible at times.

1.5. Install and maintain trash receptacles and either Clivus-Multrum or vault toilets at the following locations:

- (1) 1971 Dedication Site area (Map 5 and Illustration 3).
- (2) Halverson Bar area (Map 4).
- (3) Halverson Lake (Map 4).
- (4) Priest Ranch (Map 5).
- (5) Guffey Bridge boat take out (Map 4).
- (6) T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Section 22, east side river boat launch (Map 7 and Illustration 3).

These installations are necessary to improve sanitation and littering problems in the area.

1.6. Conduct routine public use supervision patrols in high-use areas from March 1 to August 31, annually, to provide visitor assistance and information, enforce regulations and monitor recreation use patterns and activities. Conduct intermittent patrols from September 1 to October 31.

These efforts will be done by a combination of BLM personnel and through contractual agreements with Ada, Elmore and Owyhee County sheriff's departments. Assignment of this work to in-house personnel will require a long-term commitment by BLM to provide both adequate and consistent funding for its accomplishment. The intent of these patrols is to prevent resource degradation and violations before they occur. These patrols would be conducted regularly each weekend and intermittently on weekdays throughout the March-August period.

1.7. Continue implementation of the Oregon Trail management plan. The Oregon Trail management plan is consistent with management of the SRBOPA for raptors, has adequate protective measures for the trail and is consistent with this recreation area management plan.

Issue 2. A number of visitor safety concerns are already addressed in other action items. They are safety on roads (1.1A, 1.1B, 1.1C, 1.1E, 1.1I), sanitation (1.5), and visitor assistance (1.2B, 1.6). In addition to those actions, the following are proposed.

Action 2.1. Construct a low basalt rock retaining wall (less than 3 feet high) on the canyon rim west of the parking area at the 1971 Dedication site (Map 5 and Illustration 4).

The absence of a retaining wall along this heavily used portion of the canyon rim provides no measure of safety for visitors who are not familiar with the crumbling nature of the basalt cliffs.

2.2(A&B). Install warning posters and signs in conjunction with general visitor information at the primary road entrances into the SRBOPA near Kuna and Grand View, at the 1971 Dedication Site in conjunction with other interpretative materials (Maps 5 and 6 and Illustration 5).

With emphasis on natural phenomena in the area and interpretation as the primary tool, public awareness of the potential and existing hazards in the Birds of Prey Area is the best way to assure visitor protection.

2.2C. Continue the annual shooting closure from March 1 through August 31.

Heavy spring and early summer recreational use from Grand View downstream warrants continuation of this closure for visitor protection, in addition to its value for protecting birds of prey.

Issue 3. Many of the concerns pertinent to this issue are addressed in issues 1 and 2. The following action items are over and above those presented for Issues 1 and 2.

Action 3.1. Continue the cooperative sign program with the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) for installation and maintenance of directional signs to the SRBOPA. Pursue development of similar agreements with Elmore, Canyon and Owyhee counties.

The BLM/ACHD agreement provides that BLM will furnish materials and supplies for such signs and ACHD will make, install and maintain the signs along major travel routes to the SRBOPA. Signing along State highways and county roads is necessary to direct visitors into those portions of the SRBOPA where accommodations for public use have been made. Cooperative agreements with the respective highway districts ensures timely maintenance of signs since highway crews routinely patrol roads and perform needed maintenance.

3.2. Evaluate installation of signs at three locations along Interstate Highway 84 (rest areas east and west of Boise and near the Meridian exit) directing tourists to a visitor information center for birds of prey such as the Boise District office or the World Center for Birds of Prey and to the SRBOPA itself.

With the SRBOPA and World Center for Birds of Prey becoming major tourist attractions, it is essential that the public be accorded the courtesy of locating these features readily. If the evaluation determines that such installation is desirable, a formal proposal will be developed and full public participation solicited.

3.3. Designate that stretch of the Snake River Canyon along the river between Thomas Flats and Sinker Creek as a "No Landing Area" where onshore visitor activity or occupancy is not permitted (Map 6).

This area has some of the lowest nesting cliffs in the entire SRBOPA and the cliffs are immediately adjacent to the Snake River. Passive visitor activity such as boating past the cliffs does not cause the degree of nesting disturbance that onshore hiking and camping activity would create. There are ample places for visitors to camp and hike both above and below this stretch of the canyon.

3.4. Monitor visitor use patterns and levels between Grand View and Walters Ferry to determine existing or potential problem areas which may need protective or accommodative management actions.

Though existing problem areas are readily identifiable in areas of roaded access at current use levels, the use of less accessible areas (such as by boaters or backpackers) may result in unacceptable disturbance levels to nesting raptors, particularly with increasing interest in boating or hiking in the area.

3.5. Complete a carrying capacity study for boating on the Snake River between Grand View and Walters Ferry. Increasing commercial and private boating activity along this stretch of the Snake River will likely result in river congestion levels unacceptable to not only boaters, but perhaps to nesting birds of prey as well. It is necessary now to determine acceptable use levels on the river so that allocation of river use is considered before problems arise.

3.6. Until the completion of Action 3.5, commercial float-boating permits will be limited to 5 outfitters. Up to ten overnight trips per outfitter may be authorized between April 1 and June 30, annually, the most sensitive time period for nesting raptors. Party size will be limited to a maximum of 30. Commercial float-boating or other commercial recreational activities will be monitored and adjusted as necessary to protect the resource base and maintain adequate recreation opportunities for non-commercial recreation pursuits. At least 50% of the use capacity (determined from Action 3.5) will be reserved for non-commercial use, with outfitting use revised accordingly. Because one-day float trips do not usually involve extensive human activity which disrupts raptor nesting through prolonged disturbance, such trips may exceed the maximum party size limitation when approved in advance by the Area Manager.

For purposes of scheduling commercial float trips, reservations for starting dates will be taken on a first request-first reserved basis no more than one year in advance of proposed starting dates. Special protective stipulations are attached to all permits issued for commercial floating activities.

Private boating use is currently unregulated, but is and will continue to be monitored since it, too, is increasing. Private boaters are required to register for float or powerboat trips between Grand View and Walters Ferry.

3.7. Redevelop the Cove Recreation site.

The Cove Recreation Site is plagued by problems arising from overuse, poor design, traffic flows, and a degenerated boat ramp. It is used primarily by local people in conjunction with recreation (fishing and boating) at the reservoir. Though it is close to a segment of the Oregon Trail, it is not directly tied to any BLM recreation resource per se. The future of this facility needs to be considered in terms of where it should or can be included in recreation management for the SRBOPA and the Oregon Trail. In the interim, until such time as its future role and need are determined, existing problems at this site should be corrected.

3.8. In cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, develop a uniform method for handling requests from the various publics to photograph nesting raptors.

Consultation to resolve this issue will begin in FY-85. The district annually receives many requests from the general public, media representatives, and professional photographers concerning access to some raptor nests so that they may engage in photographing and/or filming birds of prey. BLM's response in the past has been variable, although requests from media representatives have generally been granted since pursuit of wildlife for photographic purposes is specifically allowed by Idaho State Law as long as such activities do not constitute harassment of the animals.

Issue 4. Some of the concerns of this issue would be taken care of by action items for the preceding issues.

4.1. Install interpretive signs at the 1971 Dedication Site, at the top of Swan Falls grade, at the boat launch area in action item 1.4A, at the northern boundary of the SRBOPA along the Swan Falls and Halverson Bar roads and at the Cabin Draw Road.

Installation and proper location of these signs is essential for attaining recreation management objectives. These sites are, and will likely continue to be, the most heavily used by visitors. Keeping use controlled at these locations rather than allowing dispersal to more or broader areas will help minimize disturbance to nesting raptors, particularly in areas where the raptors are not already conditioned to human activity. This action is therefore consistent with protecting the nesting raptor population.

4.2. Construct a visitor and interpretative center for the Snake River Birds of Prey Area.

The need for a visitor's center has been considered periodically for several years. Visitor requests for information about the SRBOPA have generally been satisfied at the Boise District BLM Office, however several significant events related to birds of prey in southwestern Idaho have evolved recently, all of which were evaluated in arriving at this proposed action. These include the following:

increasing visitations to the SRBOPA and resultant visitor assistance workloads,

construction of the World Center for Birds of Prey,

BSU's raptor biology program development,

the proposed annual Idaho Birds of Prey Festival,

increasing media exposure which generates many information requests,

local business and community leader interest in such a facility,

increasing use of the SRBOPA as an environmental education laboratory by local and out-of-area schools and other organized groups.

The building of a visitor center must be put in the perspective that protection of the raptors and their habitat is the first priority. As BLM's first communication and most important contact with visitors to the SRBOPA the visitor center would thus be central to effective resource protection, interpretation and enforcement efforts. As a result of public comments, this proposal will be studied further with a final proposal and location presented for full public review at a later date.

Issue 5

Action 5.1. Within the essential nesting habitat, all new developments will be designed to remain subordinate to existing landscape character.

5.2. Throughout the SRBOPA, all developments on public land will be located, designed and constructed in such a manner so as to maintain or improve existing VRM classes. This may necessitate the use of additional landscape materials to maintain the landscape character setting.

5.3. Remove, rehabilitate and/or screen existing visual distractions within the BPNA and in close proximity to other popular recreation sites in the SRBOPA to make such intrusions less conspicuous.

Actions 5.1 through 5.3 are designed to maintain or improve existing Visual Resource Management and recreational settings, consistent with recreation management objectives.

5.4. Include in the land acquisition/easement package in Lands Program Management Action B.(3) the following:

- (1) Those State of Idaho lands identified for exchange in 1980.
- (2) That parcel of the E.T. Evans ranch on Halverson Bar which was previously offered in exchange for the Melba seeding.

Portions of these lands receive heavy recreation use, and all have been proposed previously for exchange or acquisition. Their acquisition will enable BLM to implement a comprehensive controlled recreation management program.

5.5. Through cooperative management or other agreements, take advantage of opportunities made available by private landholders to facilitate BLM's management and development of recreation resources in the SRBOPA.

Such agreements would meet recreation program needs not otherwise attainable on public lands. They would enable better resource protection and ensure public access to portions of the area. One such agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) allows public camping on TNC lands within the canyon. This opportunity for the public to camp on TNC lands reduces the amount of disturbance to nesting raptors which would result from camping on adjacent public land in the area proposed for protection by Action 3.3. Additional cooperative efforts with Idaho Power Company have resulted in the incorporation of BLM suggestions into recreation and other developments associated with the reconstruction of the Swan Falls hydroelectric project.

5.6. Within the essential nesting habitat, generally prohibit the following types of recreation activities between February 1 and October 1, annually:

- (1) use of hang gliders and ultralight aircraft and
- (2) rock climbing and rappelling, except for emergency purposes.

These types of recreational activity are not generally compatible with minimizing disturbance to nesting raptors. Ample opportunities for these activities exist elsewhere in the southwest Idaho area, however there may be cases in which these pursuits could be allowed, but only with the specific advance written approval obtained from the Area Manager or the BLM Boise District Manager.

Issue 6.

Action 6.1. Construct a permanent field work station at Swan Falls no later than September 30, 1988.

Construction of a permanent field camp on public land at Swan Falls would facilitate visitor contacts and recreation management both above and below Swan Falls Dam and provide a permanent, visible BLM presence in the SRBOPA. It would not be used as a visitor contact station but would serve as a temporary residence for personnel working in the Area. Construction timing would enable its completion at approximately the same time that reconstruction of the Swan Falls hydroelectric facility is completed and subsequent public use intensifies.

6.2. Create and staff the following additional positions in the SRBOPA to help implement the provisions of this plan:

- (1) One permanent full-time Law Enforcement Ranger/Biologist
- (2) Two seasonal Recreation/Wildlife Aides

These positions are necessary to successfully resolve many action items previously discussed, predominantly in the area of use supervision. Additional personnel needs will be considered in the future as necessary.

Part III: Fire Management

Fire Suppression

The Kuna Fire Management Plan describes fire suppression and prevention activities for public land within the area in greater detail than presented here. The following is a summary of that plan.

1. All fires upon or threatening public land will be attacked with all available forces to extinguish fires during the first burning period.
2. Priorities for fighting fires are for winterfat shrublands first and sagebrush sites second.
3. Heavy equipment can be used in the Birds of Prey Natural Area but only to protect life and private property and only by consent of the Area Manager or District Manager.
4. Heavy equipment will be used on most fires outside of the BPNA to keep the amount of burned area to a minimum.

Fire suppression on land within the National Guard Training Area is administered under a special Memorandum of Understanding (see Part VI).

Fire Rehabilitation

Every burned area within the SRBOPA is evaluated for possible rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on the re-establishment of winterfat and big sagebrush shrub communities within golden eagle hunting territories. Management actions are directed at maintaining native plant communities within limits imposed by funding, seed availability and opportunities for successful rehabilitation. Areas which have previously burned and are now dominated by annual vegetation are not rehabilitated. The competition in these areas from annual species such as cheatgrass precludes successful establishment of fire rehabilitation seedings.

General fire rehabilitation objectives in the SRBOPA are:

1. Establish perennial species to minimize soil erosion and invasion by annual plant species.
2. Re-establish shrub and herbaceous species to maintain prey habitat
3. Establish a dependable forage base for livestock grazing.

Seed prescriptions are selected to meet these objectives and must be adapted to the range sites impacted by the fire. Native species are used whenever feasible and economically possible. Typically a mixture of native and introduced species is used to increase the probability of a successful rehabilitation project. Since native grasses and forbs have lower germination rates and poorer seedling vigor than some introduced species, mixtures of both are necessary to keep invasion by annual plants to a minimum. The three most common plant communities in the SRBOPA and typical seed prescriptions for them are:

<u>Winterfat Community</u>	<u>lbs/acre applied</u>
Winterfat	2.0
Crested wheatgrass	2 to 4
Russian wildrye	1 to 3
Yellow sweetclover	1 to 2
Indian ricegrass	1/2 to 2

Shadscale Community

The same mixture as above is used except that 1/2 to 1 lb/acre acre of fourwing saltbush is substituted for the winterfat.

Big Sagebrush Community

Big sagebrush	1/4 to 1/2
Fourwing saltbush	1 to 2
Bluebunch wheatgrass	1 to 2
Crested wheatgrass	4 to 6
Russian wildrye	1 to 2
Basin wildrye	1
Indian ricegrass	0 to 1/2
Alfalfa or Yellow sweetclover	1 to 2

Pre-fire shrub communities are seeded using rangeland drills or broadcast seeders and are protected from livestock grazing for two growing seasons. Most fire rehabilitation seedings done to date have been less than 3,000 acres in size and of irregular shapes, thus large monoculture seedings are not apparent.

As new varieties of native and introduced plant species are developed and released, they are tested in trial plots to determine their compatibility to the soils and climate in the SRBOPA. Shrub varieties suitable for prey cover that are either relatively resistant to carrying a fire or which re-sprout after being burned will be given priority consideration for future rehabilitation projects.

Efforts will also be made to establish "greenstrips" of fire resistant vegetation along major roads and to divide large acreages of annual vegetation into smaller units. The size and frequency of wildfires will thereby be reduced which in turn will reduce the likelihood of future fires in the important shrub communities.

Part IV: Livestock Grazing

Twenty-four grazing allotments in the three resource areas are partially or entirely within the SRBOPA. A total of 45,968 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of grazing is licensed annually within the area, 80% for cattle use and 20% for sheep use (Table 2). Ten of the 24 allotments have more than one permittee and are classified as common use allotments.

Livestock grazing will continue to be authorized according to grazing privileges of the respective permittees, within the limits of MFP and RMP guidelines and decisions. Little change from the current stocking rates and season of use is expected in most allotments. Since most allotments within the SRBOPA are in the less intensive management category, Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) will generally not be developed, though grazing systems may be established for some allotments.

Any increases or reductions in livestock use will be accompanied by monitoring programs to insure that such changes do not result in adverse impacts to raptor and prey habitats (vegetation type, quantity, structure, etc.) or to other resource values. Utilization levels of key forage species will be determined in all allotments and trend studies (permanent photo plots or nested frequency transects) will be established in the allotments where AMP's are developed. Additional monitoring studies will be established in all emergency fire rehabilitation seedings. Monitoring and research studies have been established at various locations in the SRBOP to study grazing and fire impacts on vegetation and prey species.

Facilities and improvements for livestock management will be authorized when their installation will not adversely impact the nesting raptors, prey habitat or other resources.

Livestock permittees will be notified by the appropriate Area Manager of research activities which may affect grazing use patterns (construction of enclosures, study areas, location of prey trapping grids, etc.) in their respective allotments.

Table 2. Grazing allotments within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Some of these allotments are not totally contained within the Birds of Prey Area.

Allot. No.	Name	Livestock Use AUMs	Season of Use	Kind of Livestock	No. of Permittees	Predicted Year Grazing Decision Will Be Issued
<u>Bruneau Resource Area</u>						
801	Castle Creek	256	11/1-1/31	Cattle	7	1987**
802	Battle Creek	200*	11/1-1/31	Cattle	1	1986**
806	Pole Creek Ind.	156	4/1-9/30	Cattle	1	1984
813	Mountain Home Sub-Unit	4,260	4/1-6/30	Cattle	11	1987**
			11/1-12/30			
821	Chalk Flat	2,511	4/1-6/30	Cattle	2	1986
			10/16-12/31			
825	Sunnyside Sp. - F.	13,300	4/1-6/30	Cattle	14	1986
			10/16-12/15	Sheep		
826	Sunnyside Winter	14,361	12/16-2/28	Cattle	5	1987
				Sheep		
827	Rattlesnake Seeding	1,386	4/1-12/31	Cattle	1	1985
828	Crater Ring Seeding	650	4/1-6/5	Cattle	2	1986
832	Duck Ponds	56	7/1-8/30	Cattle	1	1985
834	Rattlesnake Creek	220	4/1-6/15	Cattle	1	1984
			10/1-11/16			
837	Rabbit Springs	84	4/1-9/30	Cattle	1	1986
839	Melba Seeding	333	4/1-6/30	Cattle	1	1985
			11/1-12/15			
<u>Owyhee Resource Area</u>						
517	Rabbit Crk./Peters Gulch	250	4/1-5/31	Cattle	1	1983
535	Fossil Butte	600	10/1-2/28	Cattle	6	1982
569	Silver City	250	4/1-10/31	Cattle	2	1982
571	Con Shea	1,250	11/1-2/28	Cattle	2	1982
578	Sinker Butte	700	11/15-2/28	Cattle	1	1983
654	Montini	140	***	Cattle	1	1983
	(Fenced Federal Range)					
<u>Jarbridge Resource Area</u>						
1137	Bruneau Arm	2,500	11/1-3/25	Cattle	1	1986-87
1137	Bruneau Hills	210	3/1-1/15	Cattle	1	1986-87
1137	Browns Gulch	1,200	11/1-2/28	Cattle	1	1986-87
1137	Flat Iron	255	4/16-10/31	Cattle	3	1986-87
1137	West Saylor Creek	300	4/1-11/30	Cattle	1	1986-87
		100	3/16-6/15	Sheep		
		200	10/16-12/15	Sheep		
1137	Hammett - Billy Stevens	240	9/15-3/15	Cattle	2	1986-87

* Potential use, as no livestock currently graze this unit.

** Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will be completed in conjunction with issuing grazing decision.

*** At permittees discretion, as long as use on key species does not exceed 50%.

Part V: Cultural Resources

General management actions apply to groups of sites or to administration of the Archaeological District as a whole. Site-specific management actions are based on individual site needs. A monitoring plan has yet to be developed for the sites included in the CRMP, therefore monitoring requirements are not yet identified for specific sites. Many concerns expressed in cultural resource management have a common link with other resource management problems stemming from a need for additional public use supervision and information/education programs. General management actions 4 through 7 illustrate this linkage to actions also needed for managing recreation use to protect nesting raptors.

General Management Actions

Many of the general management actions in the CRMP are administrative in nature however the following actions are considered significant enough for review here.

1. Support through exchange or purchase the acquisition of private and state owned lands within the Archaeological District.
2. Develop a Cooperative Management Agreement with Idaho Power Company (IPCo) to coordinate management efforts on adjacent BLM/IPCo lands in the Birds of Prey Area. Coordinated recreation management would especially benefit the overall land management efforts of both IPCo and BLM.
3. Assist IMD to the maximum extent possible with its efforts in completing a cultural resources inventory and management plan for the IMD Training Area (see Map 8). This action is discussed under Part VI: MILITARY TRAINING, Individual Responsibilities section A(11). A protection plan for cultural resources within the TA will be developed in conjunction with this inventory. In the interim, military training activities are planned so as to avoid all known cultural resource sites.
4. Support the Birds of Prey Recreation Management Plan recommendations for visitor use control, and emphasize the following components of this effort:
 - A. Increased law enforcement efforts
 - B. Accelerated public information programs
 - C. Limited road access to the canyon rim and within the canyon to existing roads only.

5. Support active enforcement of the ORV closure in the Archaeological District since ORV use can cause significant damage to cultural sites. Prepare recommendations for physical protection measures at sites where damage is occurring. The biggest problem area in the Archaeological District is around Halverson Lakes and the adjacent dunes. This action is consistent with Recreation Actions 1.1(B) and 1.1(G).
6. Encourage minimum impact camping throughout the Archaeological District. Monitor camping use and if it appears that voluntary compliance is insufficient to meet management needs, develop and require adherence to minimum impact camping standards for the SRBOPA. As recreation use increases there will be increased impacts to cultural resources. Encouraging or requiring recreationists to use minimum impact camping techniques should result in reducing adverse impacts to sites.
7. Contact recreationists (especially outfitters and guides) to discuss cultural resource concerns and exchange information regarding site conditions and needs. Coordination between recreationists and the Bureau is important in protecting cultural resources. Outfitters and guides are especially concerned with acquiring information about cultural sites encountered by their clients to enhance the float boaters' experience.
8. Retain or add the following conditions to the commercial outfitter permits:
 - A. Permittee and trip participants must not disturb archaeological or historical values, including, but not limited to petroglyphs, historic structures, rockshelters, and open surface sites. Petroglyphs are not to be chalked for photo enhancement.
 - B. Permittee must leave in place and report any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations.

Most commercial outfitters recognize the incentive for leaving cultural sites intact since it enriches everyone's appreciation of the river. A legal deterrent is still appropriate. Many recreationists are unaware that the chalking of petroglyphs may be potentially harmful to the rock art and definitely detracts from the experience of those who follow.

9. Physically close and rehabilitate alternate vehicle tracks and trails abounding next to existing roads. On a case by case basis, erect barriers or signs as necessary to restrict travel to one set of tracks through important site areas. If necessary, conduct limited test excavations to determine the least destructive route through the site.

10. All cultural resources along the river will be preserved as a storehouse of information for scientific research. All proposals for destructive research (i.e. excavations) at sites within the Archaeological District will be considered in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Generally, research will be authorized only if the site is in danger of being destroyed or the value of the information obtained would outweigh the loss of the site itself. Non-destructive research (e.g., settlement pattern analysis, architectural studies, oral history interviews, archival research, etc.) will be encouraged.

11. Complete detailed recording of all rock art known to exist in the Archaeological District, excluding the Wees Bar petroglyph field which has already been mapped.

12. Post interpretive/warning signs at significant rock art sites to enrich visitor experiences and dissuade would-be vandals.

13. Produce at least one cultural resource brochure annually as part of the Public Affairs Plan Critical Concern Brochure Series. A few brochure topics are:

- A. General history of the area with numbered points of interest and brief descriptions.
- B. Wees Bar petroglyphs (reissue existing handout).
- C. Wees Bar stone house.
- D. Doc Hisom's cabin.
- E. Railroad and Guffey Bridge and townsite.
- F. Farming on the Snake River.
- G. Mining in the Birds of Prey Area.

14. Evaluate the interpretive potential of the following major sites in the Birds of Prey Area. In addition to those listed below, other sites may be designated in the future.

Halverson Bar
Wees Bar (petroglyphs and stone house)
Priest Ranch
Ferry Sites
Guffey Bridge, Townsite and Railroad Grade
The Peach Orchard
Stone Cabin, 10-AA-184
Oregon Trail (already covered in District's Oregon Trail Management Plan).

The locations of these sites are generally well known by people coming into the area. Some are clearly identified on maps readily available to the public. Interpreting these sites will enhance the visitor's experience while simultaneously encouraging preservation.

Site Specific Management Actions

1. At the following locations, install interpretive signs, post cultural resource protection notices and perform additional work necessary to protect the sites from degradation:

Guffey Bridge and vicinity
Ferry locations
Schellbach Cave
Halverson Bar Settlement
Wees Bar petroglyphs
Wees Bar stone house
Priest Ranch
The Peach Orchard
Cultural Resource site 10-AA-184

2. Cultural Resource Site 10-AA-09: Excavate this rockshelter located along the Swan Falls-Melba Road. Severe damage to this site was reported in the 1970's. The midden from the site extends across the road to the river and is cut to a depth of three feet in some places by vehicle ruts. In addition, vandals have disturbed the deposits. There is no alternate route because of the steep terrain, therefore salvage excavation is the only option for site treatment.

3. Cultural Resources Site 10-AA-19: Determine the route through this area least harmful to the extensive prehistoric site presently being damaged by vehicle traffic. Close alternate tracks and reroute vehicles to one road. If necessary, test excavate to determine the boundaries of the site. Extensive disturbance to the buried archaeological deposits in this area was noted in the 1970's.

Part VI: Military Training

The Idaho Military Division (IMD) uses approximately 130,000 acres within the boundaries of the SRBOPA as a Training Area (TA) (Map 1 and Map 8). Use of the TA is authorized under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the IMD and BLM. Training use has been primarily on weekends with numerous two week training sessions throughout the summers.

The responsibilities of BLM and IMD are defined in the IMD/BLM MOU for use of the Training Area (TA). The MOU was recently reviewed and reauthorized on May 17, 1985, signed by the BLM State Director and the Governor of Idaho. The following selected excerpts are quoted verbatim from the MOU. The TA is divided into two areas. The Impact Area (IA) is that land used as a target zone into which live ammunition is fired. Outside of the Impact Area (OIA) is the region in which maneuvers are conducted and from which artillery is fired.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

The BLM and IMD agree to:

- A. Meet annually on or about November 1, to discuss and outline IMD's annual operating plan and the prior years' activities. The level of activity authorized shall not further diminish the area for the nesting raptors.
- B. Jointly assess soil and vegetation disturbance caused by training activities (including fires) by October 1 of each year. The BLM will prescribe species to be planted, application rates, time of year and provide rangeland drills if available. The IMD will be responsible for all costs in carrying out the rehabilitation including maintenance of the BLM drills while they are being used on the seedings. ... All seeding results must be to the satisfaction of the BLM.
- C. The MOU shall be reviewed every five (5) years...."

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The IMD will:

- (1) Coordinated (sic) and control military use of the TA.
- (2) Provide information concerning major changes to the annual operating plan.
- (3) Install and maintain warning, safety and closure signs around the perimeter of the IA at 1/4 mile intervals . Trespass control will be the responsibility of the IMD, when the IA has been closed to the public by the BLM.
- (4) Install and maintain closure signs on roads likely used by the public to enter the OIA. Such signs will close the area to unauthorized persons during periods of use by the IMD .
- (5) Conduct aerial and/or ground reconnaissance prior to all live firing to insure all people and livestock are out of the impact area or any other unsafe areas.
- (6) Be responsible for prevention and suppression of all fires within the training area resulting from IMD activities.
 - (a) Take action to control or suppress fires within the impact area at the discretion of the IMD. [IMD has two 1,000 gallon fire tankers which are manned and which accompany units on maneuvers in the TA]
 - (b) Report all fires to the BLM Boise District fire dispatch office (334-1497) immediately, giving location, size and expected time of control. The BLM may take suppression action when deemed necessary and will notify IMD immediately when taking such action. The IMD will pay all BLM suppression costs incurred. A fire coordination plan will be part of the annual operations plan
- (7) Repair or replace range improvements such as fences, water tanks, cattleguards, and corrals ... that are damaged or destroyed by military activities
- (8) Annually remove debris and litter generated by IMD activities unless otherwise agreed to by the BLM Boise District Manager.

(9) Take reasonable efforts to locate and destroy all unexploded munitions within the area, and eliminate any other hazards that may result from the use of the area by the military. If use of the area is abandoned or this MOU is terminated, the IMD will be responsible for decontamination of the public lands included per 43 CFR 2374.2(a).

(11) By September 30, 1986 complete a cultural resource survey, excluding the IA, and implement a protection plan to avoid or mitigate damage to sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

(16) Support the BLM in its monitoring studies to assure that the use level is compatible with maintaining a prey base in the area.

B. The BLM will:

(1) Confine authorized livestock use in the TA to the periods from April 1 - June 30 and October 16 - February 28 annually. Additional livestock use may be authorized outside these periods with 30 days notice to the IMD.

(3) Include any State of Idaho lands into this MOU if they are acquired by the BLM.

(4) Conduct monitoring studies on the level of use by the birds of prey to determine the effects of military activities and provide IMD with a report of such studies or findings.

(5) Close IA to the public and provide appropriate signs to the IMD designating closure."

Part VII: Oil/Gas/Geothermal Leasing

During the effective period of the withdrawal, leases will continue to be issued for oil and gas and geothermal resources in the Birds of Prey Area with appropriate stipulations to protect raptor and prey habitat. Environmental assessments have been completed for both Oil and Gas and Geothermal leasing within the area. Especially significant among the BLM land use stipulations applied for ensuring adequate resource protection or public safety are the following:

1. No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the land within the essential nesting habitat is allowed except for certain types of exploratory activities. Geophysical exploration (without explosives) may be conducted from September 1 through the end of February. Exploration activities involving vehicle or mobile heavy equipment is limited to travel and use on existing roads and trails. Variations must specifically be approved in writing by the Boise District Manager.
2. No surface occupancy is allowed in the Crater Rings area.
3. Only seasonal occupancy from July 1 through March 14, annually, is allowed in the long-billed curlew habitat area north of the IMD TA.
4. Surface disturbance and/or occupancy are prohibited within 330 feet each side of all historic trails in the lease area (Oregon Trail).
5. No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the Idaho National Guard (IMD TA) impact zone (Map 8).

In addition to BLM stipulations, the Idaho National Guard (ING) has requested that the following stipulations apply to all oil and gas leases issued in the IMD TA:

1. The ING will be furnished with detailed plans for all exploration and construction/operations activity planned by the lessee at least 60 days prior to its commencement.
2. Roads and trails in the area will remain open for use by the National Guard.
3. No area fence closures will be built, other than around the immediate vicinity of the construction/operation activity.
4. The Federal Government (all agencies), the State of Idaho, and the ING will be immune from liability for any injuries or damage to property resulting from the explosion of military ammunition and/or explosives.

Part VIII: Ecosystem Monitoring, Research and Studies

Ecosystem Monitoring

Periodic monitoring of the raptors, their prey, habitat condition and land uses is necessary to determine the stability of the raptor population in the SRBOPA. Monitoring data help determine management actions necessary to ensure perpetuation of these populations. A Monitoring Plan for the SRBOPA was completed in February, 1985, to guide monitoring efforts for the area.

Three goals for monitoring in the SRBOPA are forth in the monitoring plan. They are:

- 1) to detect environmental changes which may affect the stability of raptor and prey populations;
- 2) to detect significant population changes of the major nesting raptor species to alert managers of potential downward trends;
- 3) to record changes in prey, vegetation and human use in relation to raptor population levels so managers can respond to raptor population declines.

Monitoring efforts evaluate raptor populations, prey populations, habitat conditions, the effects of fires and fire management and levels of recreation, grazing, military and other resource uses. The frequency and intensity of monitoring efforts vary according to what is being monitored and the degree of monitoring needed to meet management needs.

Research and Studies

Research and management studies are conducted within the SRBOPA to address management concerns related to existing and/or anticipated information needs which cannot be met through monitoring. If existing information is not sufficient to meet management needs, BLM will seek to obtain that information by:

- (1) conducting in-house research,
- (2) contracting for such research,
- (3) authorizing qualified non-BLM entities and/or persons to conduct the needed research within the area or
- (4) seeking outside funding as authorized in Section 307(c) of FLPMA.

At present, three areas for investigation of prey habitat condition have been identified. They are:

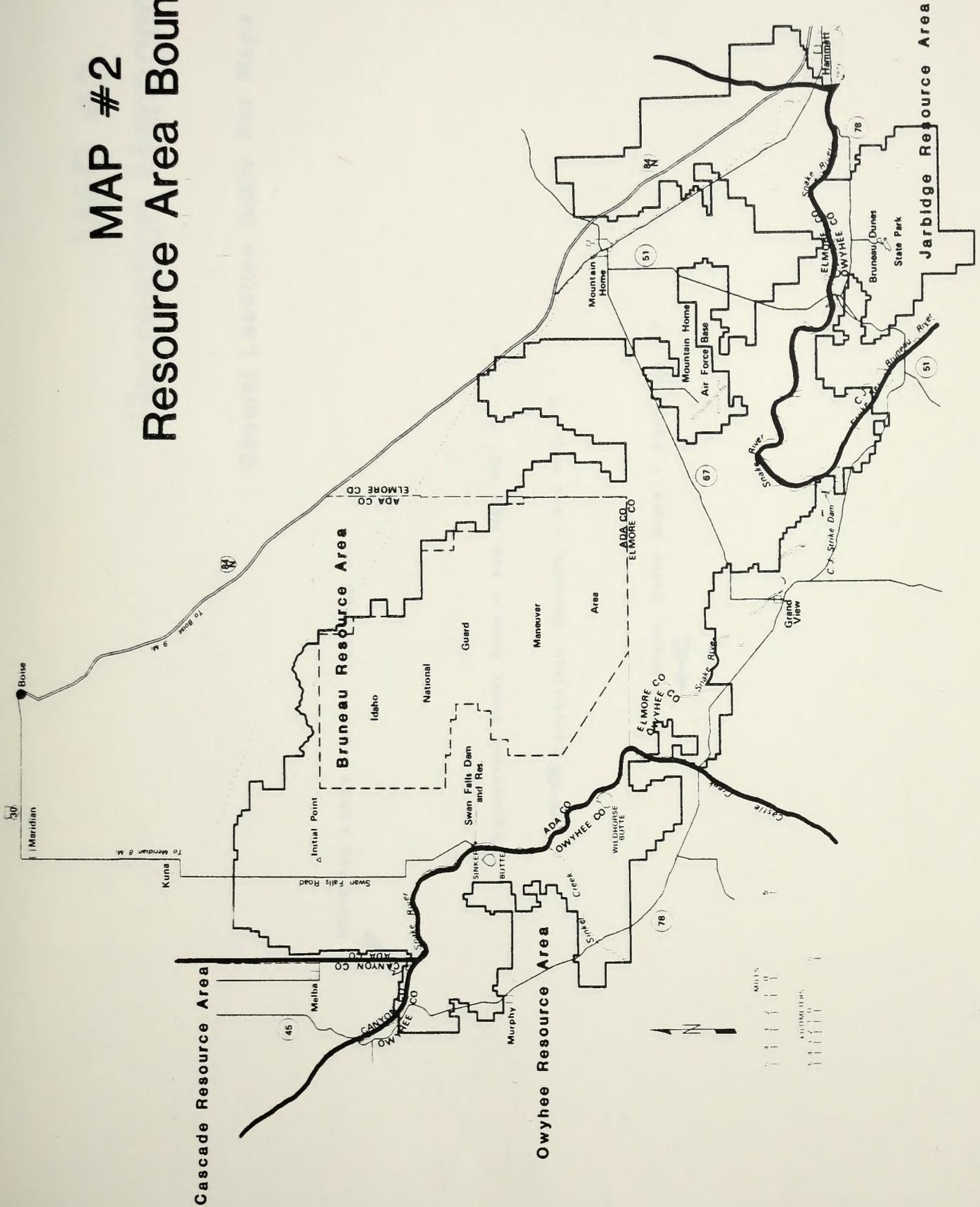
1. The effects of fire, grazing, and range rehabilitation practices on existing vegetation communities and how each affects prey habitat values;
2. Prey densities related to successional stages of vegetation within each habitat type resulting from those practices;
3. Prey vulnerability to raptors in those successional stages.

The influence of human disturbance on raptor nesting success is also an area being considered for further investigation, particularly because of increasing visitations to the SRBOPA.

Research Coordination

The BLM recognizes that its statutory authority and responsibility is for the management of public land wildlife habitat and not for the direct welfare of the wildlife which inhabits it. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are directly responsible for the animals themselves. To ensure that research activities are consistent with the programs of all three agencies and of the greatest wildlife management value possible, the Boise District has proposed establishment of a research review committee. The committee would be made up of representatives of these agencies and other appropriate organizations, both public and private. This proposal is still in the development stage but will continue to be pursued.

MAP #2 Resource Area Boundaries

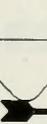


T1S

Guffey Bridge - boat ramp, parking, toilet



Halverson Lake - toilet



Halverson Bar parking, interpretive sign, toilet

MAP #4

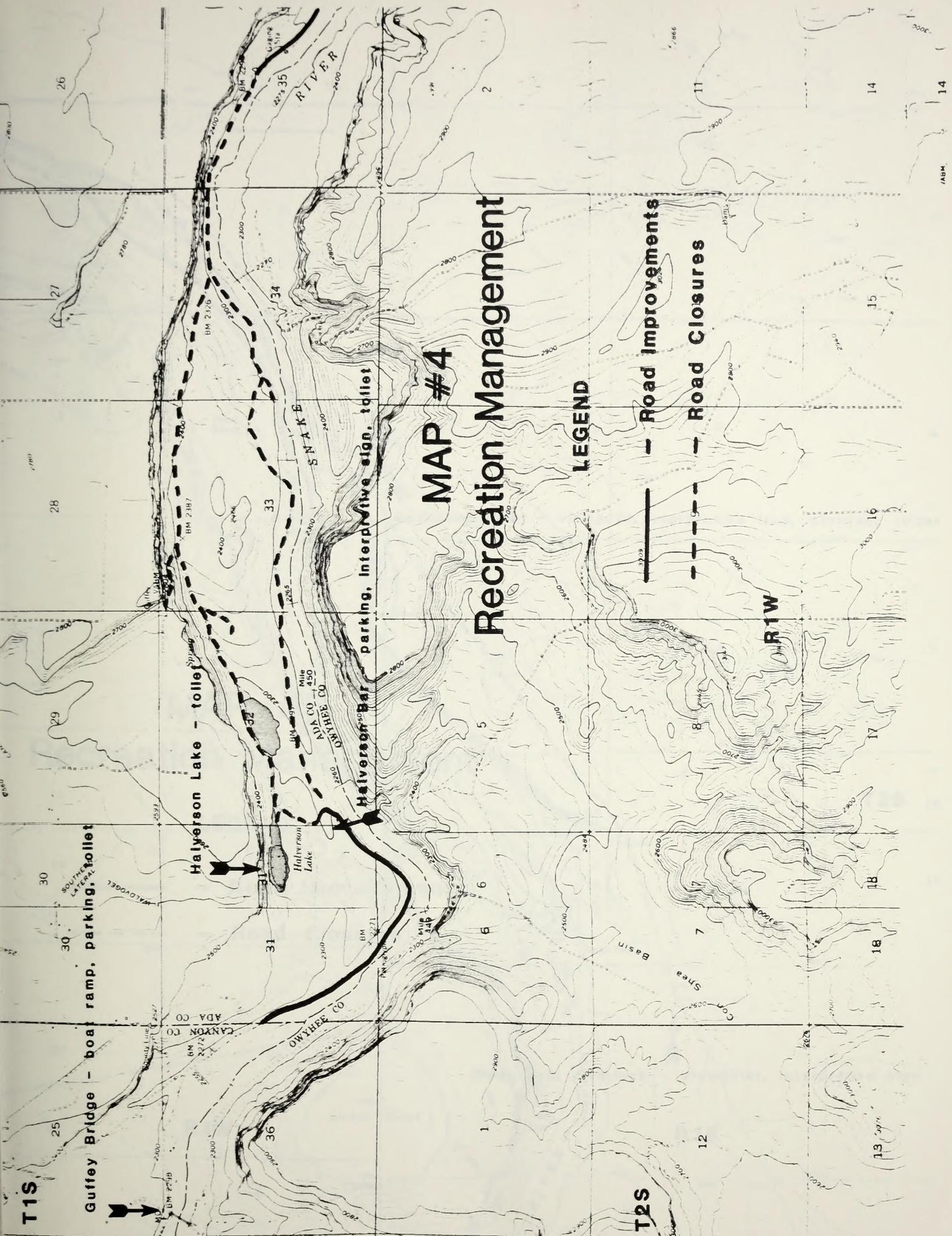
Recreation Management

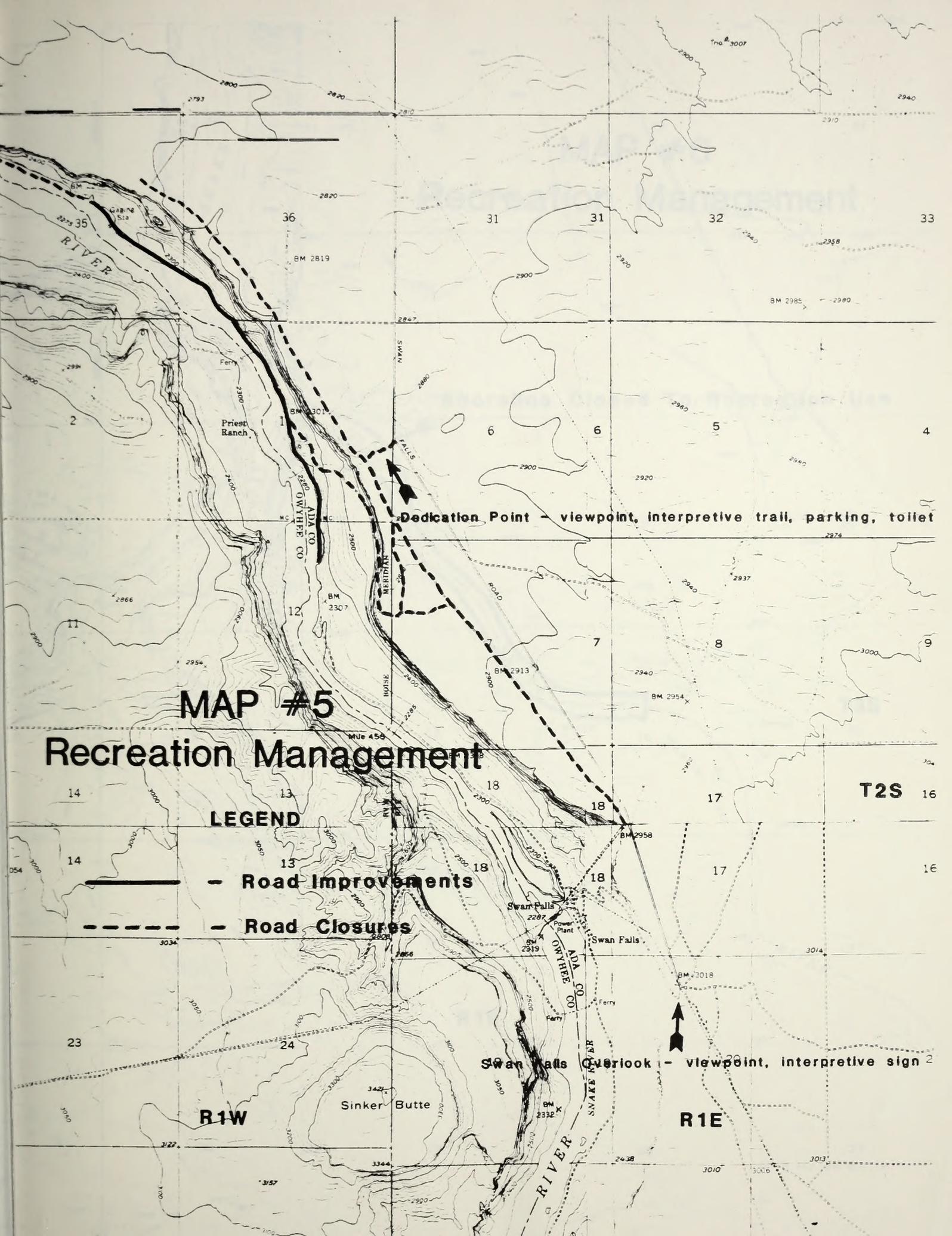
LEGEND

— Road Improvements

- - - Road Closures

RTW

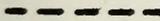




MAP #5

Recreation Management

LEGEND

-  Road Improvements
-  Road Closures

Dedication Point - viewpoint, interpretive trail, parking, toilet

Swan Falls Overlook - viewpoint, interpretive sign

R1W

R1E

T2S

Sinker Butte

Swan Falls

Swan Falls

Priest Ranch

Snake River

Snake River

Meridian

Hoise

Nymphs

36

31

31

32

33

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7

8

9

14

13

18

18

17

16

14

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3010

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3013

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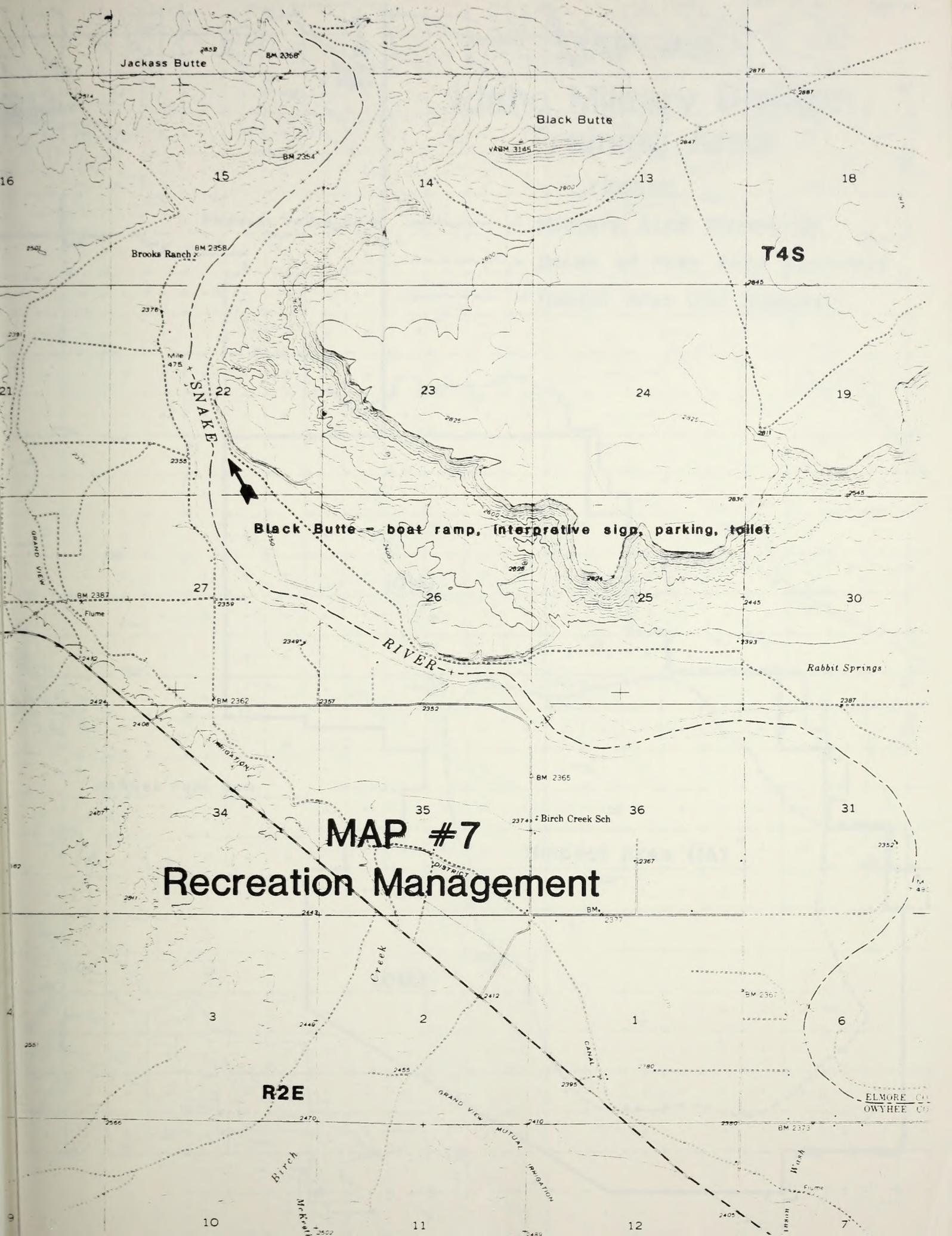
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Jackass Butte

Black Butte

Brooks Ranch

T4S

Black Butte - boat ramp, interpretive sign, parking, toilet

MAP #7

Recreation Management

R2E

ELMORE CO
OWYHEE CO

10

11

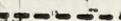
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MAP #8

Idaho Military Division Training Area

LEGEND

-  - Military Area Boundary
-  - Birds of Prey Area Boundary
-  - Impact Area (IA) Boundary

Boise
6 miles

Pleasant Valley Rd →

(OIA)

Impact Area (IA)

(OIA)

* Kuna

* Swan Falls Dam

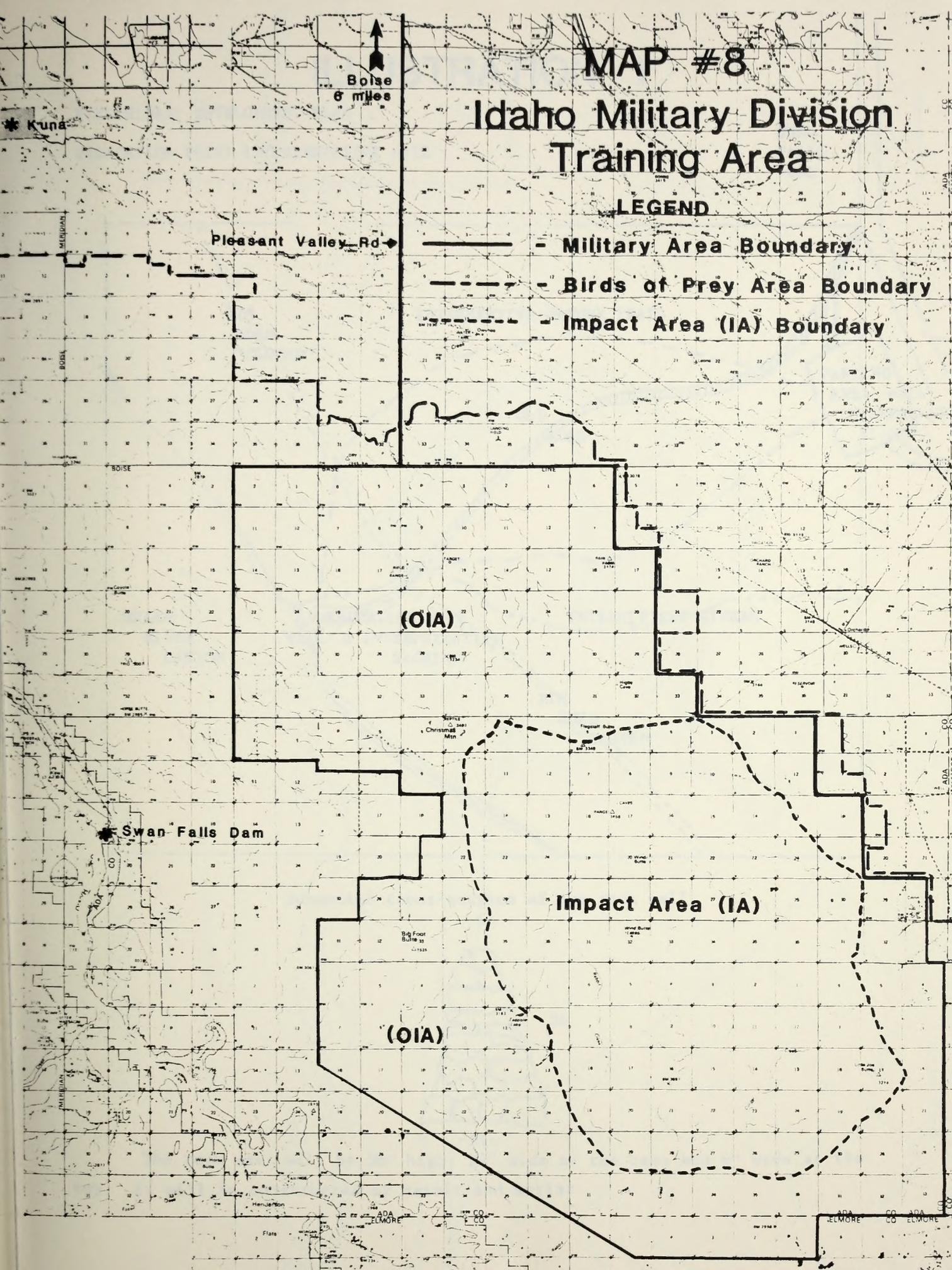
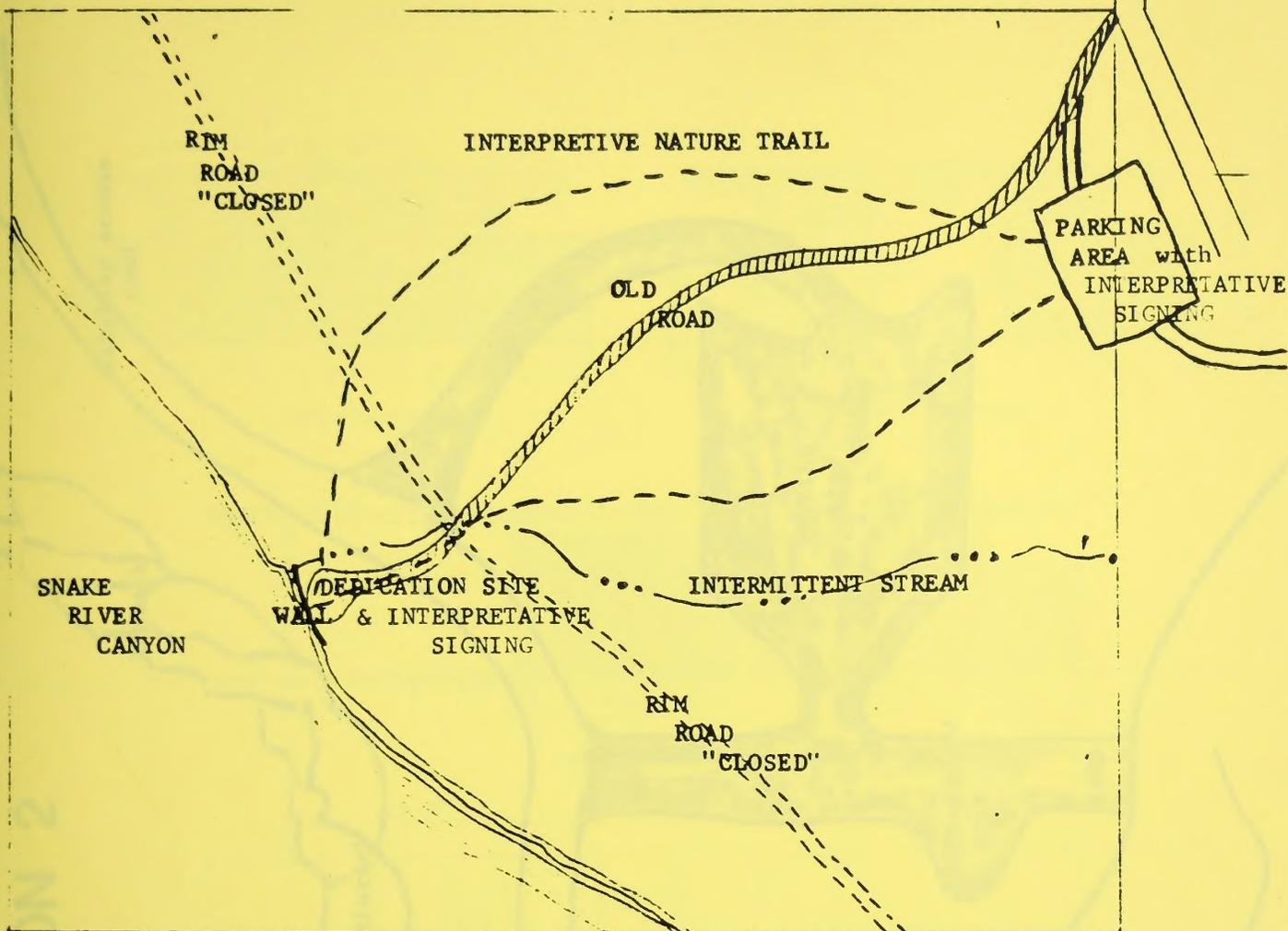


ILLUSTRATION 1

PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

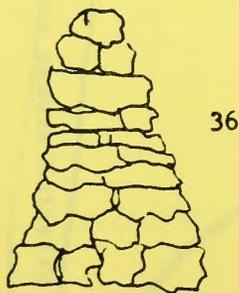
DEDICATION POINT INTERPRETATIVE SITE

SWAN
FALLS
ROAD



Schematic cross-section of the rock wall

-6-



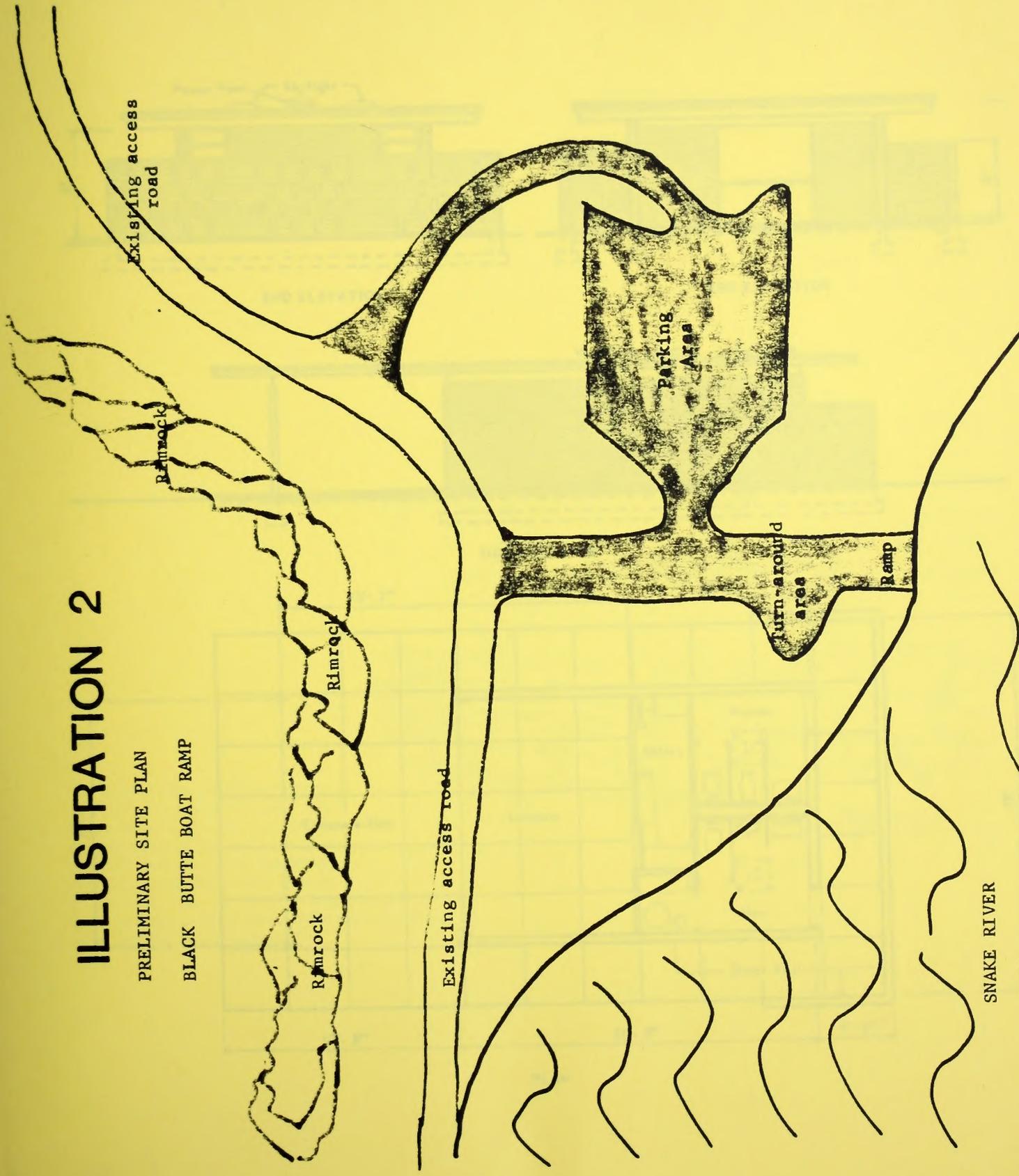
-24-

The rock wall will be 36" high, 24" wide at the base and 6" wide at the top. It will be constructed of basalt and mortar.

ILLUSTRATION 2

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN

BLACK BUTTE BOAT RAMP



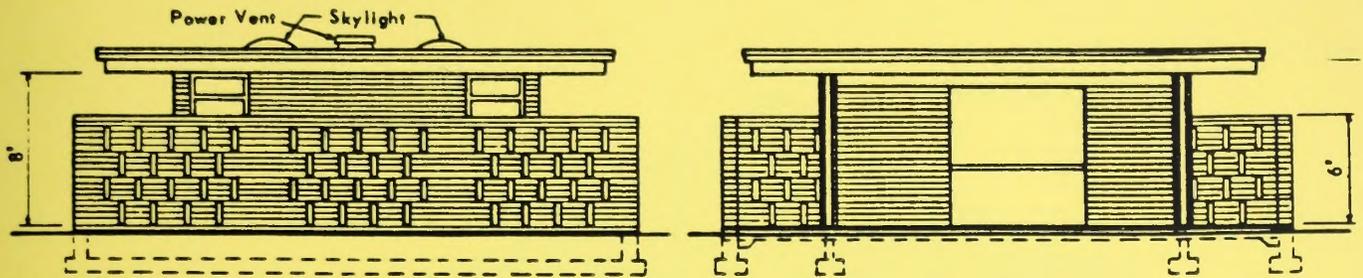
LEGEND

- Area to be gravelled

SCALE
0 25' 50'

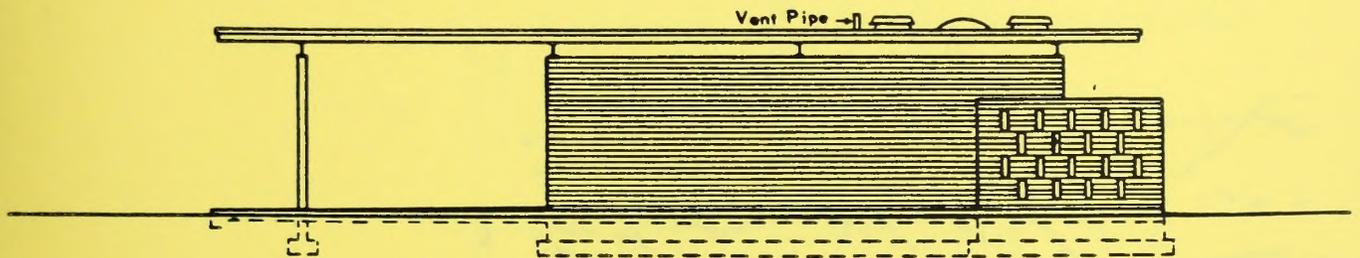
ILLUSTRATION 3

EXAMPLE OF A RESTROOM FACILITY WITH SPACE FOR A SMALL EXHIBIT AS COULD BE USED AT DEDICATION POINT OR THE BLACK BUTTE BOAT RAMP

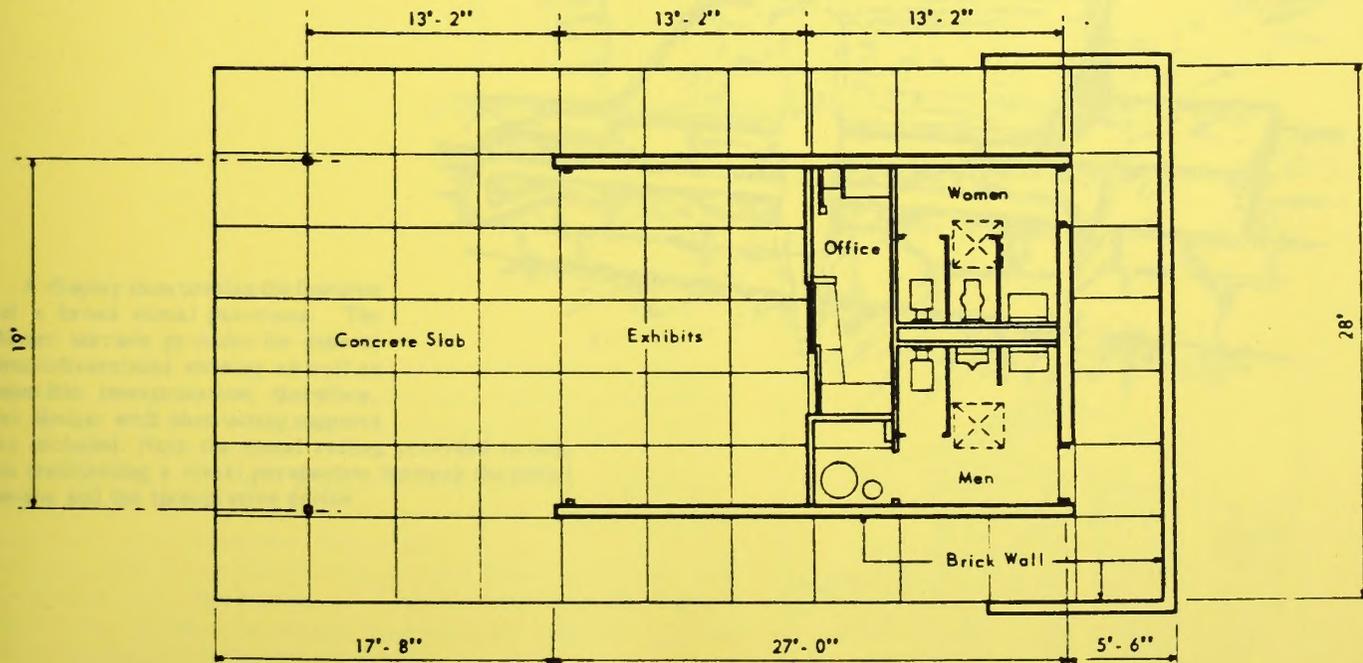


END ELEVATION

END ELEVATION



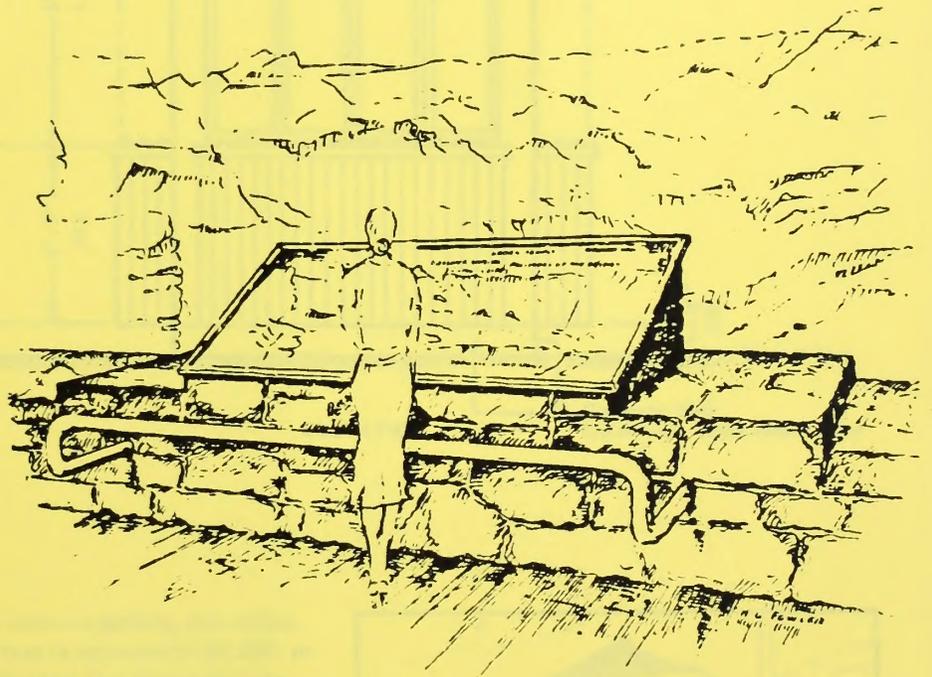
SIDE ELEVATION



PLAN

ILLUSTRATION 4

EXAMPLE OF INTERPRETATIVE SIGNING THAT WOULD BE INSTALLED ON THE ROCK WALL
AT DEDICATION POINT AND AT THE TOP OF THE SWAN FALLS GRADE

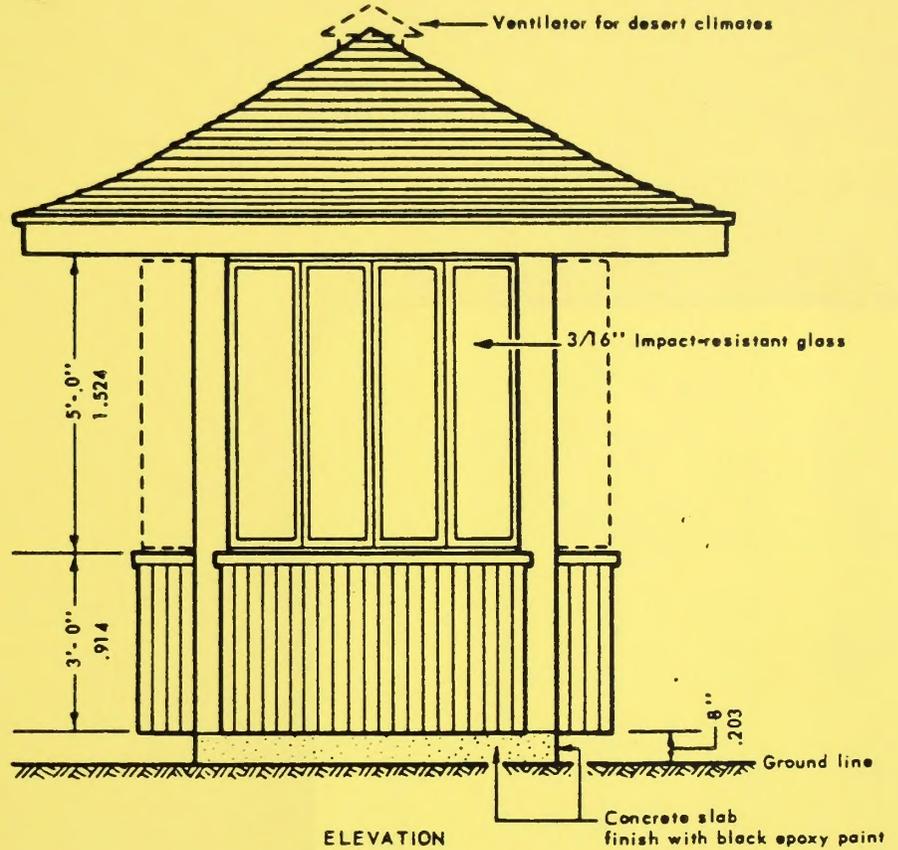


A display interpreting the features of a broad visual panorama. The broad terrace provides for general multidirectional viewing as well as specific interpretation; therefore, no shelter with obstructing supports is included. Note the metal railing provided to help in maintaining a visual perspective between the actual scene and the interpretive device.

ILLUSTRATION 5

EXAMPLE OF A PORTABLE KIOSK THAT COULD BE USED SEASONALLY AS A VISITOR

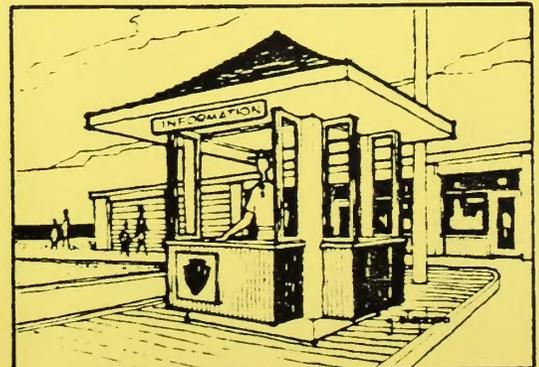
CONTACT POINT IN THE BIRDS OF PREY AREA



The kiosk shown here serves a wide range of uses—a parking area office, ticket counter and information booth. The structure is economical (\$2,000, in 1975 for materials alone), and can be moved with ease. It is designed to be weather resistant and comfortable.

Inside, the kiosk has projecting counter units so that there is generous internal storage capacity. The windows can be bolted in an open or closed position and offer ample ventilation for hot days.

The projecting roof line and its internal air space provide protection and insulation from the sun. The roof space can also accommodate concealed lighting units, a fan or additional storage. Working space inside is 5' x 5' with 8-inch deep shelves and closets on all sides.



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Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

BORROWER

DL 684 .124 S62

Snake River Bird
Area

DATE
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