

Shivwits

Management Framework Plan Summary



ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT

U S Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management

INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes major issues and decisions presented in the Shivwits Management Framework Plan (MFP). Management framework plan decisions provide overall guidance for day-to-day resource management.

The guidance is flexible both in terms of its practical application and being subject to revision to meet changing circumstances. This plan was prepared between 1978 and 1981. It has and continues to guide land use decisions in the Shivwits Resource Area. There have as yet been no major amendments to the original plan.

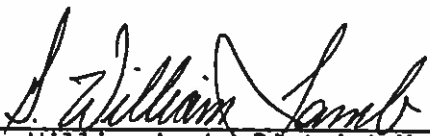
The MFP was carefully reviewed in 1985 and it was determined to be valid for continued use based on compliance with the principles of multiple use, public participation and governmental coordination.

When several management issues or problems emerge or a plan amendment would not be adequate, the MFP will be replaced by a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Either major amendment or conversion to RMP will include invitation for the public to assist in shaping the revision.

Since the Council of Environmental Quality regulations to meet the National Environmental Policy Act requirements may not be fulfilled in the MFP, an environmental analysis is completed before an action is taken based on this MFP.

The MFP planning decisions apply to the BLM-managed lands in the Shivwits Resource Area as shown on the location map. Because of the quantity and complexity of the decisions, only the more significant in terms of public interest and affects on resource management are presented.

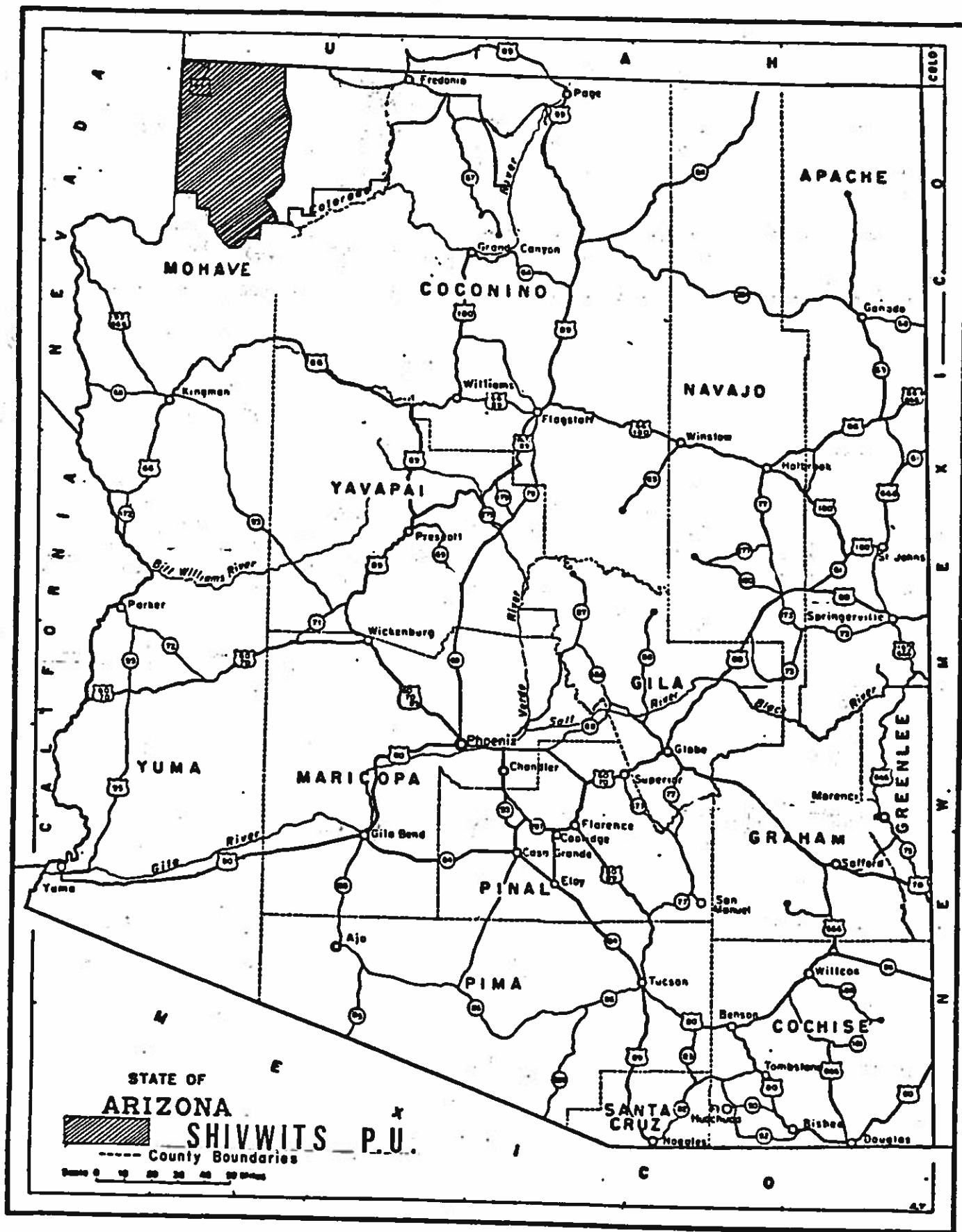
The complete Shivwits MFP is available for public review at the Shivwits Resource Area Office located at 225 North Bluff Street, St. George, Utah or at the Arizona Strip District Office at 196 East Tabernacle Street, St. George, Utah.


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I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SHIVWITS RESOURCE AREA

The Shivwits Resource Area administers the western portion of the Arizona Strip District, Bureau of Land Management. Located in Mohave County, Arizona, the majority of the resource area contains public lands which are intermingled with State and private holdings.

<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Public Lands	1,401,415	90.5%
State Lands	77,659	5.1%
Private Lands	68,383	4.4%
Total:	1,547,457	100.0%

An extensive network of unpaved roads supplies access into the resource area. Many of these roads are limited by seasonal weather conditions and type of vehicle, but are generally passable year around. Aside from Littlefield, approximate population of 100, no other towns with population significance exist within the area. However, several semi-permanent dwellings serve as ranch headquarters throughout the year.

Topographical features include typical Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range characteristics with elevations ranging from 1600 feet to 8300 feet. A variety of vegetation occurs as a result of diverse soil types, elevation, temperatures, and precipitation. The dominant vegetative types for the area are pinyon-juniper (31%), desert shrub (28%), creosotebush (13%), sagebrush and grassland (12% equally).

A biseasonal climatic pattern contributes to the peak storm periods of summer and winter. Annual precipitation varies from 6 inches to 30 inches, with an annual mean of 10.2 inches. Temperature extremes vary from summer highs of 120°F to winter lows of -25°F. Water resources are relatively scarce with only one perennial stream and a number of sparsely located springs (104) and wells (30). Surface collection and storage, in the form of reservoirs (380) and catchments (65), are heavily depended upon to supplement natural waters for livestock and wildlife consumption. The majority of surface collection is provided by summer storm activity. Erosion condition, for most of the resource area, is classified as slight-to-moderate. Mechanical treatment has been conducted to improve soil stability within critical zones.

Many diverse wildlife populations inhabit the area, including game and nongame species. Recently reintroduced populations of pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, and Merriam's turkey are becoming established.

Several protected plant and animal species occur within the resource area. Federally listed Endangered species include Pediocactus sileri and three varieties of animals (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, woundfin minnow). Eight additional animal species are recognized on the Arizona State Threatened Wildlife list and the desert tortoise is managed as a Sensitive species.

Cultural resource data suggests the area contains a relatively high degree of historical remains dating from 1776 and include several trails, activity sites and communities eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological data is incomplete to date but indicates, with extrapolation from adjoining predictive designs, a potentially high degree of site density.

With respect to land use, the resource area provides a partial economic base for the surrounding communities. Currently, there are 53 livestock operators who graze 8,808 livestock on 64 allotments (1,717,341 total acres). The current licensed use is approximately 82,000 AUMs. AMPs are being implemented through development of grazing systems coupled with such range improvements as water developments, land treatments and fences.

The fire management program operates under a modified suppression plan. It also conducts prescribed fires for range improvement. Suppression activities are based from existing Bureau facilities which include an observation tower and five field stations.

Mineral deposits of economic significance include gypsum, copper and uranium. Recent exploration for uranium and gas/oil deposits suggest favorable production potentials.

Recreational activities are influenced by the proximity of the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead and other national recreation areas. The resource area contains three designated wilderness areas and scenic remoteness for sightseeing and backpacking opportunities. In addition, historical sightseeing, hunting and various activities at Virgin River campground are available for public use.

II. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The intent of the Bureau's planning system is to identify and resolve issues and concerns resulting from present and potential land use conflicts, the unavoidable environmental impacts of resource development, and social and economic impacts on local communities and lifestyles.

Through this process, with the assistance of other governmental agencies and organizations and many individuals, issues and concerns were identified. These issues and concerns were weighed and considered in making the land use decisions of the plan.

Major areas of concern included land use planning and controls, environmental protection, minerals, livestock grazing management, wildlife habitat management, watershed, forest management and woodland products, recreation, wilderness, visual resource management, wild burro herd management, cultural resource protection and fire management.

III. SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

A. Lands

1. MAKE LANDS ALONG FT. PIERCE WASH AND AROUND THE TOWNS OF LITTLEFIELD AND BEAVER DAM AVAILABLE FOR STATE EXCHANGE, PUBLIC SALE AND EXCHANGE AND R&PP AS NEEDED FOR URBAN EXPANSION. (SEE LANDS MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE.)

Approximately 2,200 acres near Littlefield-Beaver Dam have been exchanged into private ownership.

2. PROVIDE TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDORS ALONG THE EXISTING NAVAJO-McCULLOUGH AND CEDAR WASH-LITTLEFIELD CORRIDORS AND THE PROPOSED CEDAR WASH ALTERNATE, WARNER VALLEY, AND ALLEN-WARNER VALLEY COAL SLURRY LINE CORRIDORS. (SEE LANDS MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE.)
3. PROVIDE A PLANNED COMMUNICATIONS SITE ON BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN TO MEET LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEEDS.
4. RESTORE ABOUT 4,800 ACRES WITHDRAWN UNDER SECRETARIAL ORDER OF APRIL 21, 1923 AND 154 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND WITHDRAWN UNDER ORDER 3701.
5. MITIGATE EFFECTS RESULTING FROM ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WORK ON GYPSUM CLAIMS IN THE UNIT.

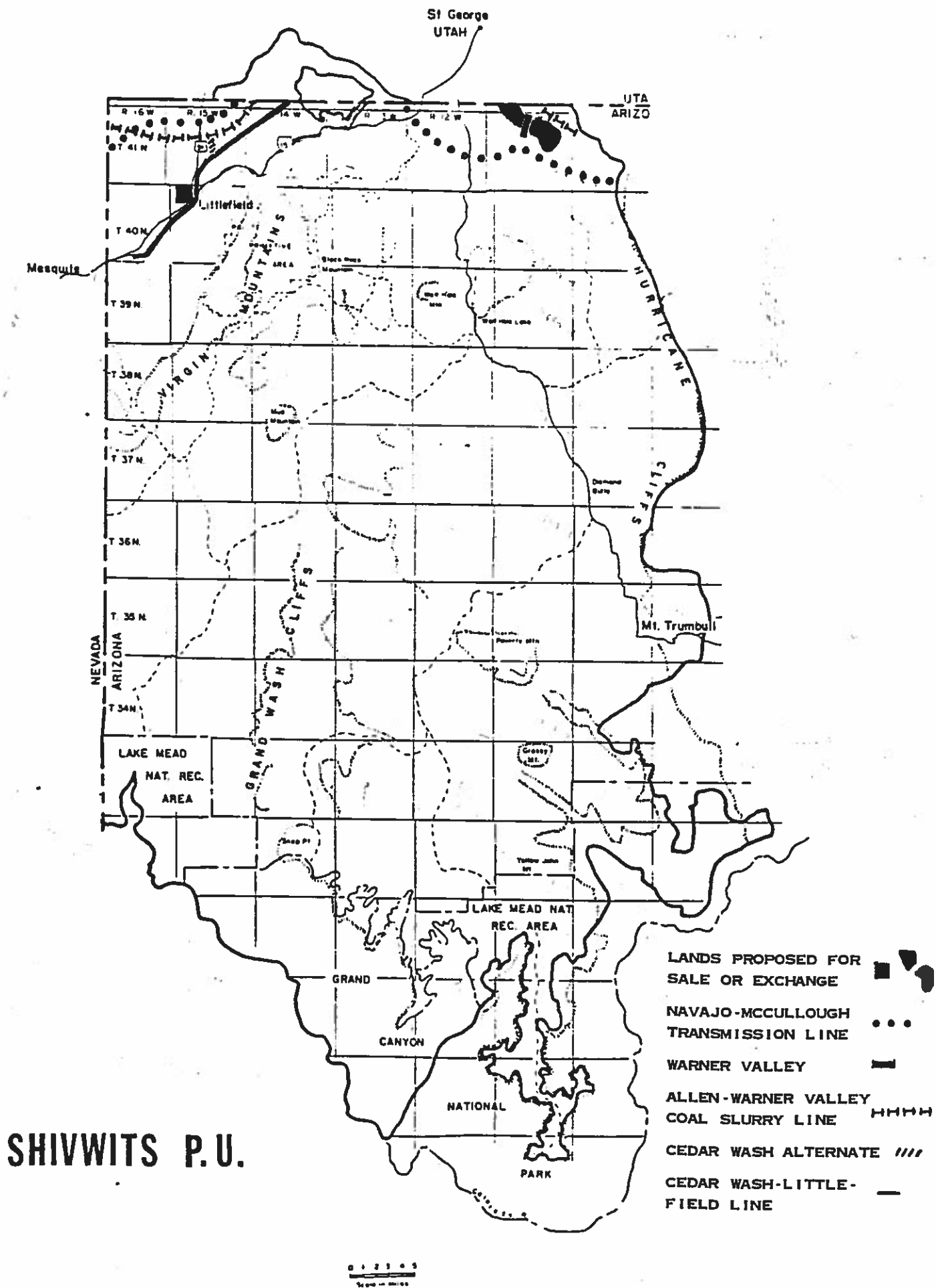
B. Minerals

1. CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL AREAS IN THE RESOURCE AREA AVAILABLE TO LEASE AND EXPLORATION FOR OIL AND GAS.
2. INSURE THAT ALL VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF LOCATABLE MINERALS REMAIN OPEN FOR LOCATION AND MINING.
3. PROVIDE THE COMMUNITIES IN OR NEAR THE AREA WITH SAND AND GRAVEL NEEDED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN A TIMELY AND ORDERLY MANNER.

C. Timber & Other Vegetative Products

1. IMPLEMENT TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE BLACK ROCK/TRAIL'S END AND PARASHAUNT FORESTS ORIENTED TOWARDS FOREST ENHANCEMENT RATHER THAN TIMBER PRODUCTION, ALLOWING TIMBER HARVEST ONLY WHERE IT ENHANCES RECREATIONAL USES, WILDLIFE HABITAT OR FOREST PROTECTION.
2. MANAGE PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLANDS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND HARVEST OF FOREST PRODUCTS.
3. MANAGE THE DESERT COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE NATIVE POPULATIONS.

LANDS



D. Watershed

1. STABILIZE THOSE PORTIONS OF THE WATERSHED WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING MODERATE TO SEVERE EROSION PROBLEMS.
2. USE ADEQUATE MITIGATING MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES SUCH AS ROAD MAINTENANCE, PIPELINE INSTALLATION AND OTHER SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE DONE IN A MANNER SO AS NOT TO INCREASE EROSION.
3. IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WATER YIELD AND REDUCE SOIL EROSION AROUND SPRINGS WITHIN THE RESOURCE AREA.
4. CONDUCT AND MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF ALL WATER RESOURCES IN THE RESOURCE AREA ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC LANDS, INCLUDING QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF BOTH SURFACE AND GROUND WATERS.

E. Wildlife

1. IMPROVE AND EXPAND UPLAND AND SMALL GAME HABITAT.
2. STABILIZE AND IMPROVE DECLINING WATERFOWL AND WILDLIFE HABITATS THROUGH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER RESOURCE ACTIVITIES. THIS INCLUDES MAKING LIVESTOCK WATERS SAFELY AVAILABLE TO WILDLIFE.
3. INCREASE WOUNDFIN AND ROUNDTAIL CHUB POPULATIONS WHICH WILL RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM ENDANGERED OR POTENTIALLY ENDANGERED STATUS AND INCREASE SPINEDACE POPULATIONS TO A NATURAL SELF-SUSTAINING LEVEL.

IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN HABITAT THROUGH INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT.
4. IMPROVE RAPTOR HABITAT AND MONITOR RAPTOR POPULATIONS.
5. REINTRODUCE DESERT BIGHORN, PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, MERRIAM'S TURKEY, AND INTRODUCE KAIBAB SQUIRREL UNDER THE APPROPRIATE HMP.

Introductions of desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and Merriam's turkey have been made. These species are becoming established in their respective habitats.

6. PROTECT AND IMPROVE DESERT TORTOISE HABITAT TO SUPPORT 15 TO 25 TORTOISE PER SQUARE MILE.

A habitat management plan covering the desert tortoise has been written and is being implemented.

F. Livestock Forage

1. PROVIDE ON A SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS AN INCREASE OF 15,000 AUMs OF LIVESTOCK FORAGE ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE SHIVWITS RESOURCE AREA THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF AMPs.

Thirty-four AMPs have been written and are presently being implemented.

2. MANAGE THE PAKOON HERD MANAGEMENT AREA TO MAINTAIN THE FERAL BURRO POPULATION AT A LEVEL WHICH WOULD PREVENT DESTRUCTION TO THE HABITAT, AND ALLOW THE BURROS CONTINUED USE OF THE TASSI ALLOTMENT.

A herd management area plan has been written and implemented to manage the Tassi burro herd.

G. Recreation

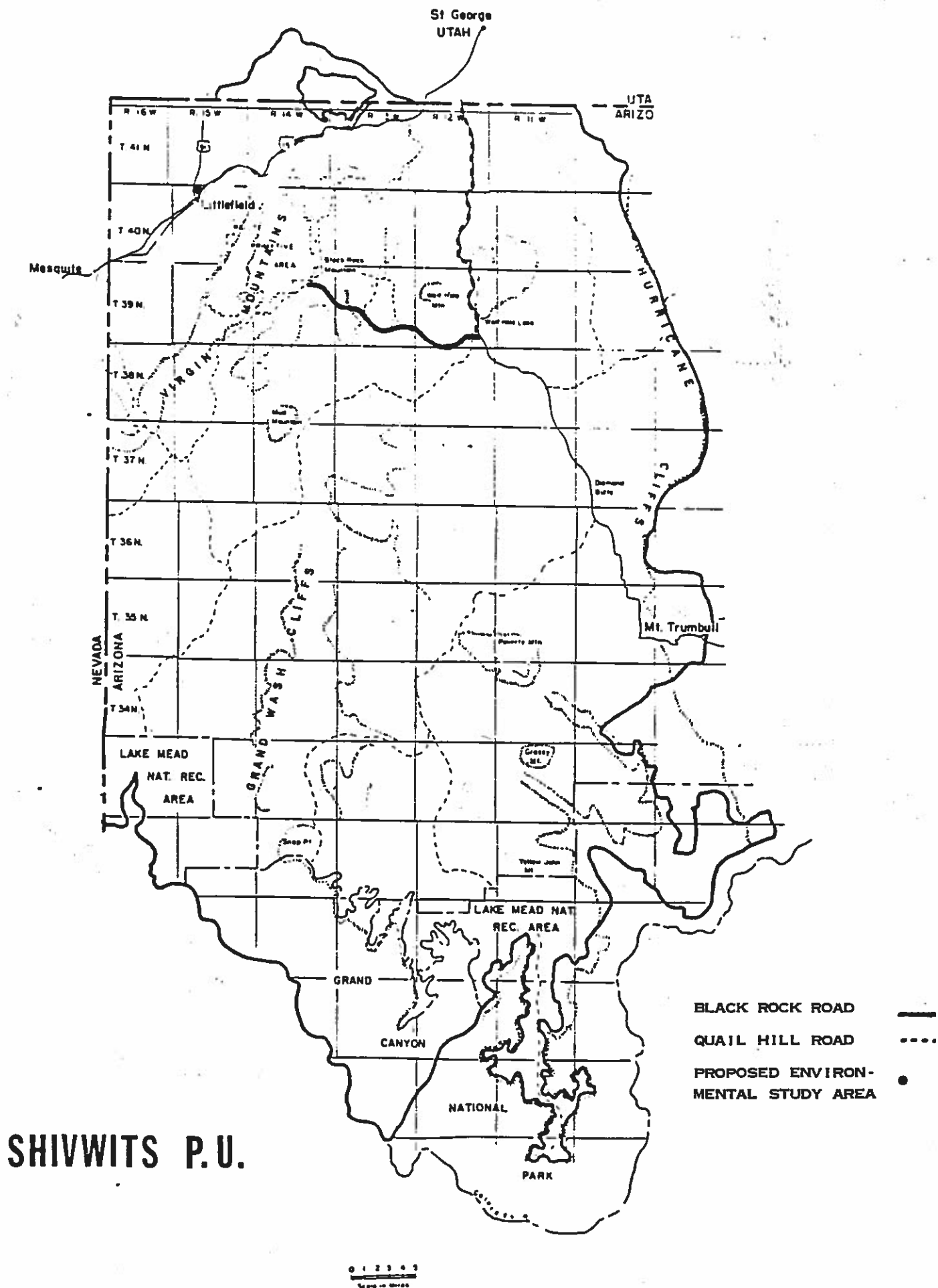
1. UPGRADE QUAIL HILL AND BLACK ROCK ROADS TO GRAVELLED, ALL-SEASON ACCESS ROADS. (SEE RECREATION MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE.)

The Black Rock road has been upgraded.

2. DEVELOP A RELIABLE VISITOR USE DATA BASE BY INSTALLING TRAFFIC COUNTERS, VISITOR REGISTERS, OBSERVATION CHECKSHEETS AND INTERVIEWING VISITORS.
3. PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM IN THE PLANNING UNIT TO EXPLAIN VARIOUS RESOURCE AND LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES TO THE PUBLIC.
4. INITIATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PLANNING UNIT. THIS INVOLVES DESIGNATING 80 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN THE LOWER BEAVER DAM WASH AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA AND ACQUIRING AN ADDITIONAL 40 ACRES OF ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND TO INCORPORATE WITH IT. (SEE RECREATION MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE.)
5. DESIGNATE AREAS WITHIN THE RESOURCE AREA AS EITHER OPEN, CLOSED OR LIMITED TO ORV USE.

Most of the lands within the resource area have been designated as limited to existing roads and trails. Those lands in wilderness, those providing tortoise habitat, and riparian areas along the Virgin River have been closed to ORV use.

RECREATION



H. Wilderness

RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT THE PAIUTE PRIMITIVE AREA BE RECLASSIFIED AS WILDERNESS AND ADJUST ITS BOUNDARIES. (SEE WILDERNESS MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE.)

A wilderness bill was passed by Congress in 1984 designating 84,700 acres in the Paiute Primitive Area as wilderness. An additional 65,000 acres within the resource area were also designated wilderness by the same act.

I. Support Activities-Protection

1. PROVIDE ADEQUATE ROADS AND FACILITIES FOR THE FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE PLANNING UNIT.

A look-out tower and living quarters for a fire crew have been installed on Black Rock Mountain.

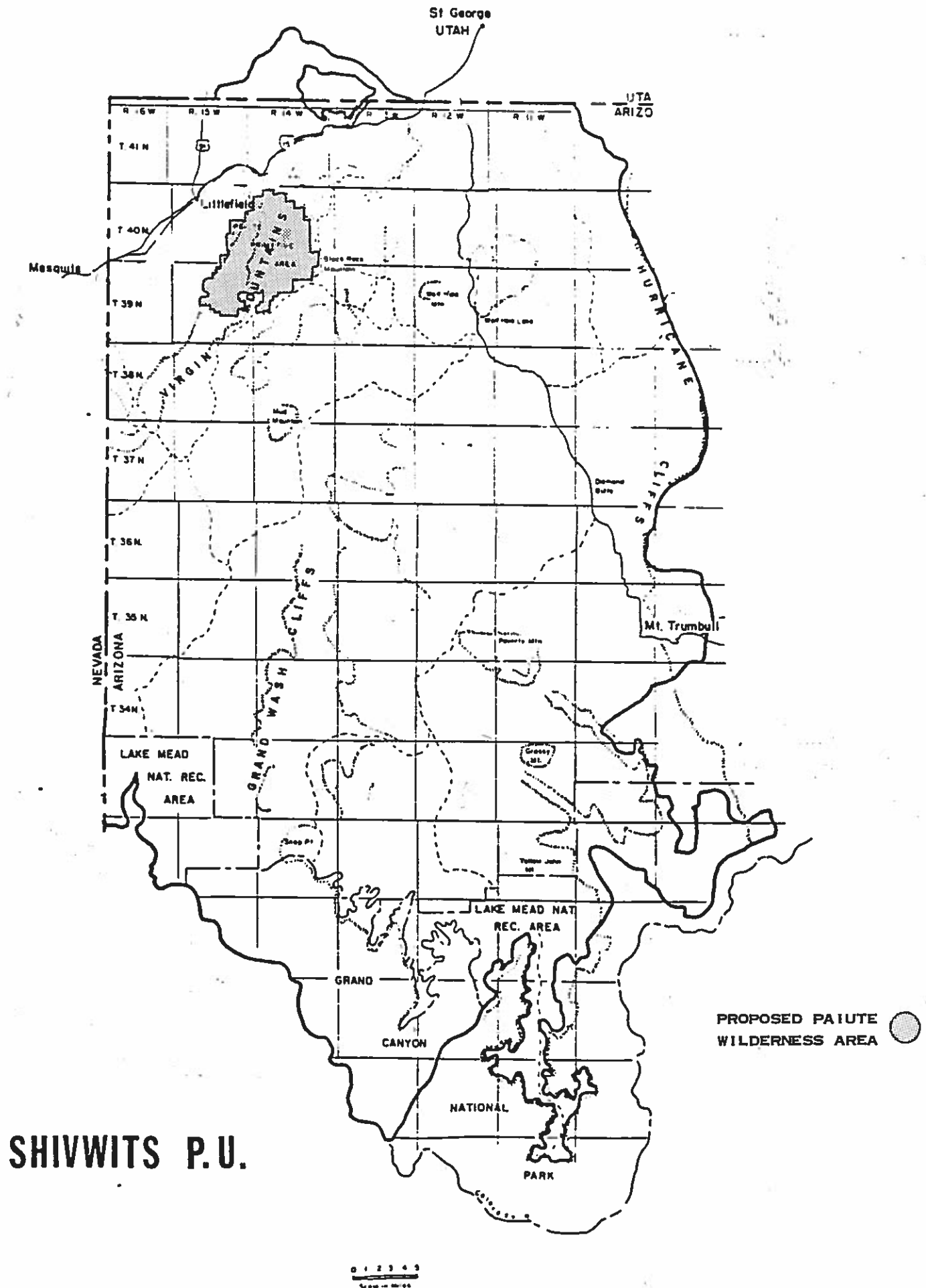
2. REDUCE FIRE SUPPRESSION EXPENDITURES TO A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH RESOURCE DAMAGE AS PROPORTIONED TO THE RESOURCE VALUE AND WITHIN THE TOLERANCE OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

A modified fire suppression plan has been developed to implement this decision.

J. Visual Resource Management

ENSURE THAT THE DESIGN OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WILL NOT CONFLICT WITH THE VISUAL RESOURCES FOR THE AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE PLANNED, AS DETERMINED BY THE VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

WILDERNESS



IV. KEY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN DATES

A. Date MFP Preparation Began and Date of MFP-3 Approval

Planning and preparation of the Shivwits Management Framework Plan began with the completion of the Unit Resource Analysis in May of 1978. MFP Step III was completed in September of 1981.

B. Completion Date and Scope of Related Programmatic EISs

The Shivwits Grazing EIS, upon which the Step III MFP Range decisions were based, was completed in 1980.

C. Dates of Plan Amendments

None.

D. Date of Management Review Which Determined MFP Compliance With Validity Requirements

1985.

V. GLOSSARY

ALLOTMENT. An area where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public land but may include parcels of private and State-owned lands. BLM stipulates the number of livestock and season of use for each allotment. An allotment may consist of one or several pastures.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland, based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources--watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes seasons of use, number of livestock to be permitted on the range, and rangeland developments needed.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture and natural features, which were of importance in human events. These resources consist of (1) physical remains, (2) areas where significant events occurred--even though evidence of the event no longer remains and (3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource.

ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES. Any animal species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This definition excludes species of insects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be pests and whose protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES. Species of plants in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. Existence may be endangered because of the destruction, drastic change, or severe curtailment of habitat, or because of overexploitation, disease, predation, or unknown reasons. See Threatened Plant Species and Sensitive Plant Species.

ENVIRONMENT. The surrounding conditions, influences or forces that affect or modify an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). An analytical document developed for use by decisionmakers to weigh the environmental consequences of a potential decision. An EIS should accurately portray potential impacts on the human environment of a particular course of action and its possible alternatives.

EROSION. The wearing away of land surface by wind, water and other geological agents; the process by which water and wind detach and remove soil particles.

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

LIVESTOCK OPERATOR. In this EIS, an individual, family, corporation or other entity that runs a livestock operation. An operator may have a single allotment, more than one allotment or a portion of an allotment.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP). A land use plan for public lands that provides a set of goals, objectives and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT. The management of the public lands and its resources to allow their use in a combination to best meet the needs of the American people and ensure balanced and diverse resource use.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV). Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain, excluding (a) any registered motorboat, (b) any fire, military, emergency or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergencies and any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense and (c) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the respective agency head under a permit, lease, license or contract.

PUBLIC LAND. Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

RANGELAND (RANGE). Land dominated by vegetation that can be grazed or browsed and whose husbandry is provided routinely through grazing management instead of renovation or cultural treatment.

RANGELAND CONDITION. The state of health of rangeland based on what the rangeland is naturally capable of producing.

RIGHT-OF-WAY. An easement, license or permit; does not grant an estate of any kind, only the right of use.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Riparian is normally used to refer to the plants of all types that grow along streams or around springs.

USE (GRAZING). The amount of forage consumed and destroyed by grazing animals, usually expressed in animal unit months.

UTILIZATION (FORAGE). The percentage of current year's forage consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

WATERSHED. The total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point.

WILDERNESS. An uncultivated, uninhabited and usually roadless area set aside for preservation of natural conditions. According to Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

A wilderness in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements of human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.