



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

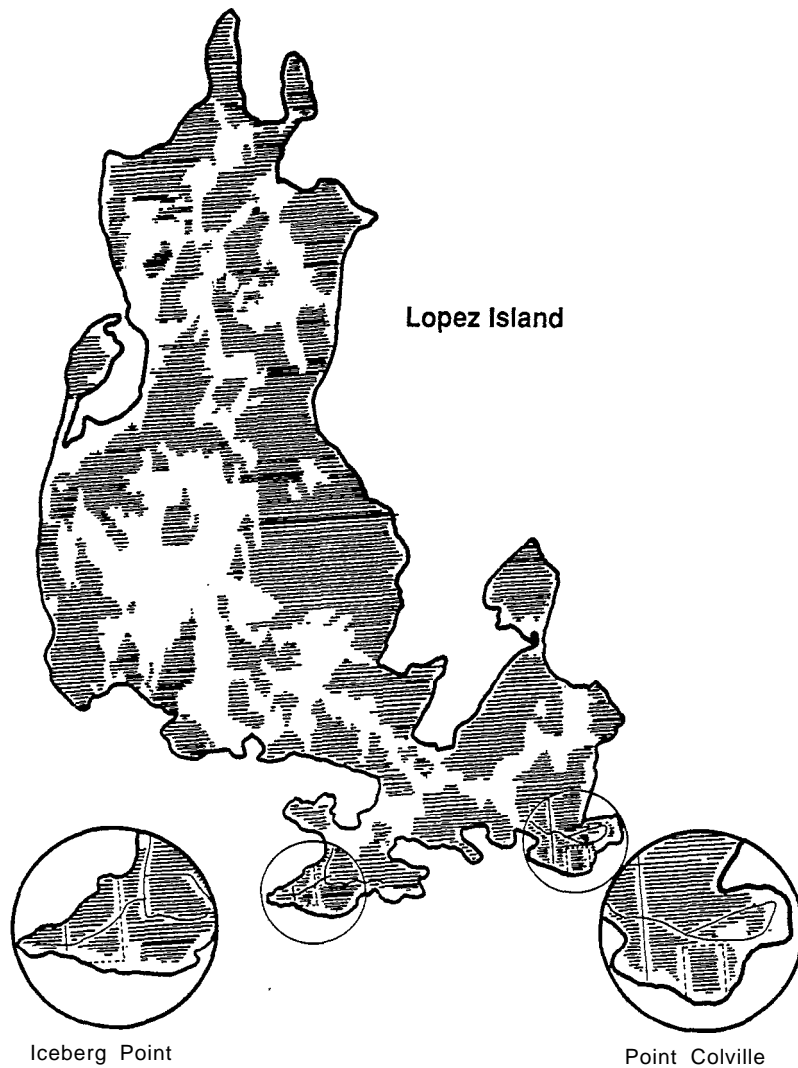
Spokane District
East 4217 Main
Spokane, Washington 99202

June 1990



Final Planning Analysis,

and Record for Iceberg Point and Point Colville Areas of Concern



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

BLM-OR-PT-90-38-1792



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Spokane District Office
Wenatchee Resource Area

June 6, 1990

Dear Reader:

The completion of this Final Planning Analysis for BLM managed land on Iceberg Point and Point Colville is the culmination of a process that began many years ago with public concern for the protection of natural areas in San Juan County. That concern led BLM to retain these lands in public ownership and manage them for the preservation of their natural values. The publication of this Plan officially designates these lands as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The lands will be managed pursuant to the specific direction prescribed by this plan. In addition, just as this plan was developed with the benefit of full public review and comment, no change to this plan may be made and no change to the land's ACEC status may be made without the benefit of full public review, comment, and participation.

This Plan recognizes the very strong feelings of many people in San Juan County and Washington State for the protection of natural areas in San Juan County. The use restrictions will allow public enjoyment of the areas while providing protection for their natural values. The Plan emphasizes that although visitor use is allowed, it is controlled and that the areas are to be managed as natural areas and not as public parks. The plan provides measures to monitor the natural condition and visitor use of the areas. The Plan also provides authority for quick action to terminate or modify any activity which may adversely affect the natural character of the areas.

We plan to continue to work closely with residents of San Juan County and representatives of local government to ensure the effective implementation of this plan.

Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of this plan may file a protest. The procedures for filing a protest are described in Appendix B of this document.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely yours,

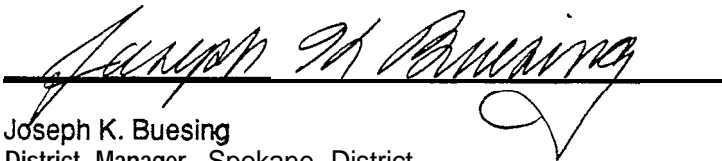
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph K. Buesing".

Joseph K. Buesing
Spokane District Manager

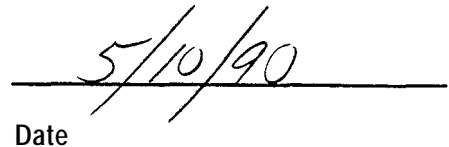
Final Planning Analysis, and Record for Iceberg Point and Point Colville Areas Environmental Concern

Recommendation

I recommend adoption of the preferred alternative in the following planning area analysis and designation of Iceberg Point and Point Colville as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.



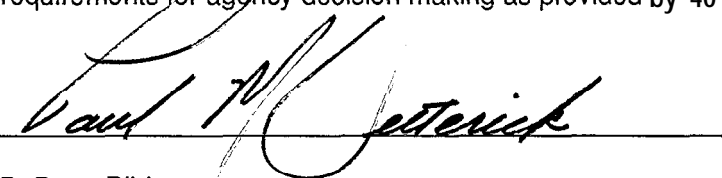
Joseph K. Buesing
District Manager, Spokane District



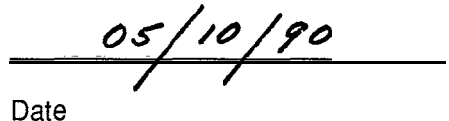
Date

State Director Approval

I approve the proposed decision for Iceberg Point and Point Colville as recommended. This document meets the requirements for agency decision making as provided by 40 CFR 1505 and 43 CFR 1610.8 (b).



cc: D. Dean Bibles
State Director, Oregon/Washington State Office



Date

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Chapter I--Purpose and Need

Introduction

This document has been developed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which requires an interdisciplinary planning process to apply the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. It provides opportunity for public involvement while ensuring that it meets the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requirements for coordination and consistency with other land use plans and regulations of other Federal and State Agencies and local governments.

Purpose and Need

Over ten years ago public lands under the jurisdiction of BLM on Lopez Island in San Juan County on Iceberg Point and Point Colville were proposed for disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This proposal met with considerable public opposition and was subsequently rejected by the Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior concluded that the public interest would best be served by dedication of these lands to scientific research. Since then the BLM has managed these lands as de-facto Natural Areas. In general, scientific research and casual use of the sites have been permitted, but activities that would tend to degrade ecological values have not been allowed. Although managed as "Natural Areas," and identified as Natural Areas in the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan, and as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Natural Areas in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) San Juan Islands Trust Land Management Plan, these sites have not been formally designated by BLM. Therefore, BLM is proposing to complete the official designation process. Current regulations require the designation be formally presented in a brief document known as a Planning Analysis to describe and analyze the history, natural values, public concerns, and long-term management goals of the sites.

Location

Lopez island is located in northwestern Washington in San Juan County. Iceberg Point and Point Colville are both located on the southern end of the Island. Iceberg Point is described as follows: Section 23, Lot 4, Section 24, Lots 6 and 7, T. 34 N., R. 2 W., containing 55.59 acres. The BLM administered parcel on

Point Colville is described as follows: Section 21, Lot 6, T. 34 N., R. 1 W., containing 60.0 acres. A total of 115.59 acres of public land is affected by this planning analysis (see map).

Planning Criteria

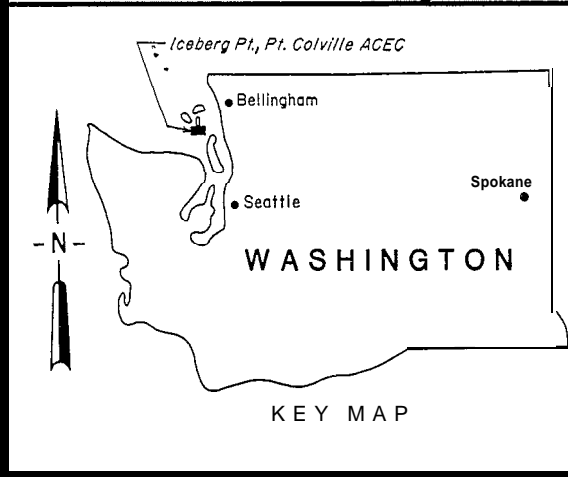
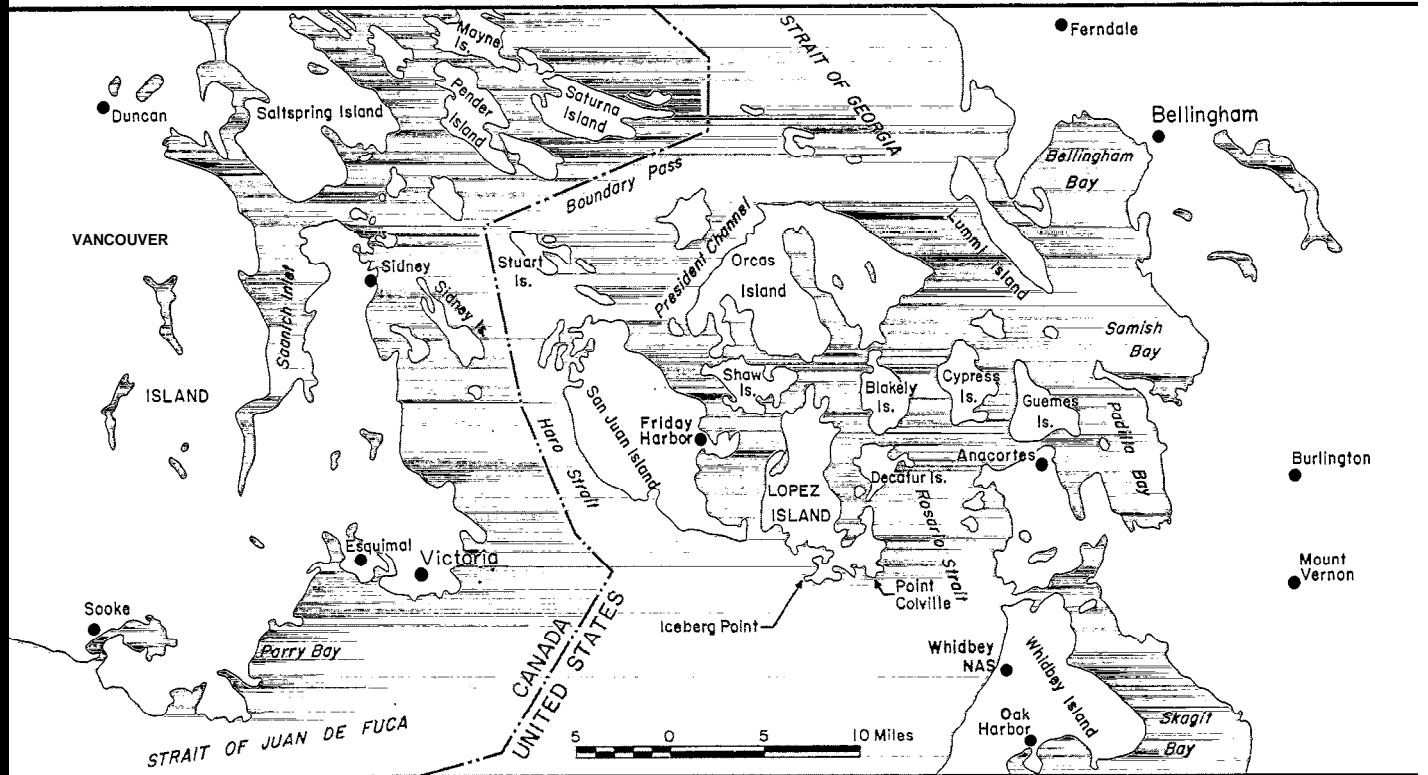
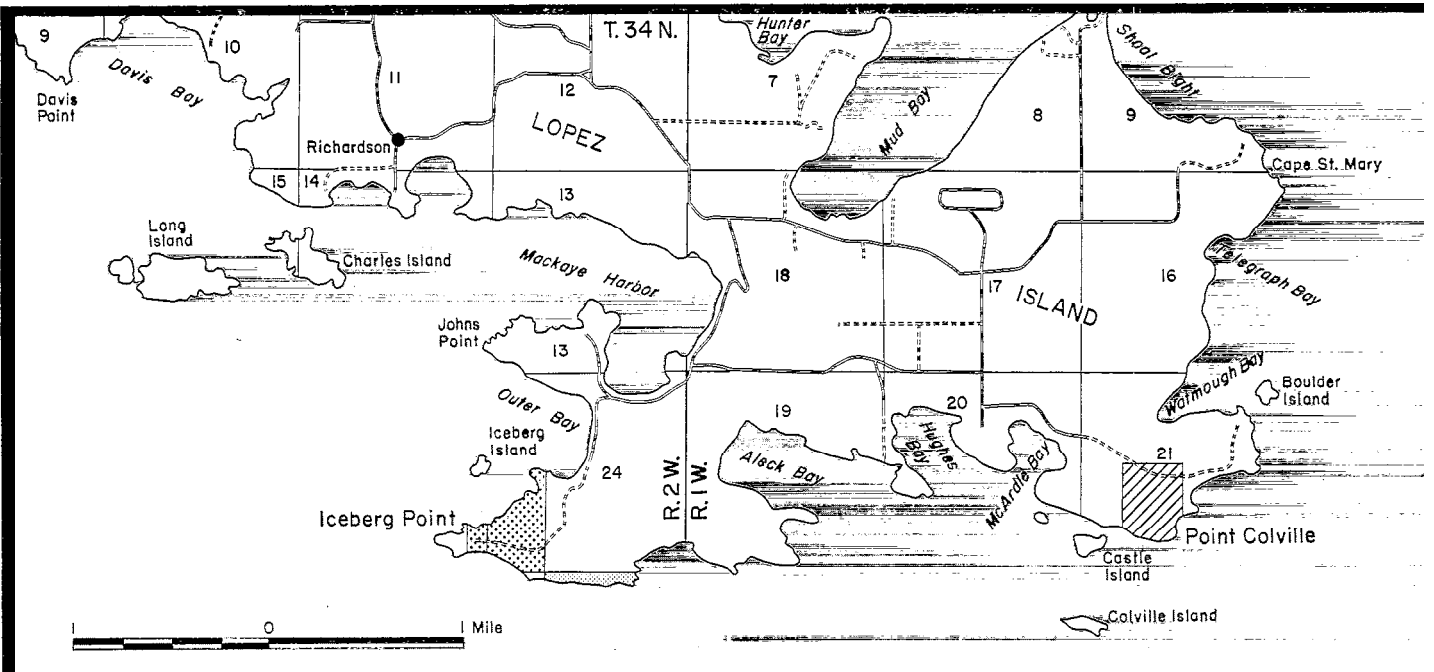
Legal Guidelines

Administration of public lands in Spokane District is guided primarily by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 274) also known as "FLPMA."

FLPMA governs and directs management activities for all lands under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction. Among its major provisions are:

1. Under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, the BLM has broad management responsibility over certain federal lands.
2. The BLM will conduct periodic and systematic inventories of the public lands and the resources they contain.
3. Comprehensive land use planning will be accomplished to properly utilize the lands and the resources they contain.
4. Management activities will strive to protect the scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmosphere, water and archaeological values.
5. In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public lands, coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies and of the States and local governments within which the lands are located, including, but not limited to, the statewide outdoor recreation plans developed under the Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 897), as amended, and of or for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved State and tribal land resource management programs.

In addition to these overall statutes, a number of state and federal laws and policies also direct and constrain management of specific resources and activities.




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


Spokane District, Washington

**ICEBERG POINT,
POINT COLVILLE ACEC**

Lopez Island, Washington

 Iceberg Point ACEC

 Point Colville ACEC

 State Land

Planning Criteria

Planning criteria were developed during the early stages of the planning process. These criteria were used to guide the resource inventories, to aid in formulating alternatives, and to highlight factors to be considered in evaluating alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative. These criteria are as follows:

- . Consider habitat of endangered, threatened or sensitive species listed by the federal government, the State of Washington or those proposed for listing in all alternatives.
- . Utilize existing resource inventories for the planning analysis.
- . Design all alternatives to provide for the protection of the natural resources.
- . Design all alternatives so they are consistent with county planning.
- . Design all alternatives so they are consistent with the decision of the Department of the Interior which held that the public interest would best be served by dedication of these lands to scientific research.
- . Design all alternatives so they comply with Federal laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies relating to land use and resource management. The application of these laws automatically determines some minimum land use allocations and management practices, such as protection or enhancement of wetlands.

Issues Addressed

Legal Access to Iceberg Point and Point Colville

At the present time there is no legal access to Iceberg Point and Point Colville for the general public. This situation creates the potential for trespass over the adjacent private lands by the public who wish to visit the two parcels. Access should be consistent with the need to protect the natural values of the two sites, to meet the concerns of adjacent landowners regarding trespass and privacy, and to allow for public enjoyment of these valuable natural areas.

Visitor Management

Visitor use of Iceberg Point and Point Colville has included hiking, horseback riding, sight-seeing, and occasional off-road vehicle riding and overnight camping. If the areas become more widely known it is probable that the current use levels would increase. Increased use could result in unacceptable impacts with long lasting affects. Therefore, this planning analysis will address the visitor uses that would be consistent with the preservation of the natural values of both Iceberg Point and Point Colville.

Public Involvement

Scoping Period

In August of 1987, a notice was published in the Federal Register and local news media to announce the formal start of planning and the initiation of the scoping process. At that time a planning brochure was sent to the public to provide additional information regarding the major issues. It also provided an opportunity for public comment on the preliminary proposal to designate these two parcels as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

During the scoping period more than eighty individuals responded. In general all respondents supported the ACEC designation proposal. However, many of the respondents clearly stated that although these lands should be protected, they should not be closed to the general public. This concern and another one regarding access were addressed in the three alternatives presented and described in detail in the draft plan.

Comments on Draft Plan

The draft plan was available for review and comment from April 1 - June 4, 1988. During that time period, a public meeting was held on April 26 at the Islander Lopez Marina Resort on Lopez Island to entertain comments regarding the plan.

Nearly one hundred responses were received during the comment period. Most of those responding commented on specific parts of the alternatives presented and some included comments on the region in general. Copies of these letters are available for review at the District Office in Spokane and the Area Office in Wenatchee.

Summary of Comments

The proposal to designate the two areas as ACECs received almost unanimous support. The majority of comments also favored Alternative One, the Preferred Alternative with some revisions. There was a strong belief expressed that the naturalness of the areas could be protected without eliminating the enjoyment of the areas by the general public. However, the proposal to develop trails within the areas was a cause for concern by many and did not receive strong support. Some concern was expressed about BLM's ability to enforce the protective measures of the plan.

Response to Public Comment

The majority of those who took part in this planning process favored the preferred alternative. However, there were enough substantive comments and concerns expressed about some parts of the preferred alternative that warranted reviewing the initial prescriptions. Consequently, the planning team believed that the preferred alternative should be modified to address these concerns. The modifications or amendments to the Preferred Alternative are as follows:

- Visitor use would be controlled and not allowed to degrade the naturalness of the areas. Any type or combination of types of visitor use that degrades the natural values would be stopped by order of the BLM Area Manager.
- The provisions for trail development on the sites would be eliminated.
- Enter into a Law Enforcement Agreement with the San Juan County Sheriff to augment BLM's enforcement capability of the plan's protective provisions.
- Establish patrols by BLM staff and law enforcement officers.
- Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with adjacent land owners, interested parties or special interest groups to monitor and implement the plan,
- Establish a monitoring program that would concentrate on preserving the area's natural qualities. (This program would be divided into a two step process. First it would require defining the desired natural conditions through the assistance of an ad hoc team of BLM resource specialists, representatives from interested groups, and the general public. Secondly it would require designing or developing actions to be undertaken when necessary to maintain or achieve these conditions.)

Chapter 2-Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative

Introduction

Both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and the BLM resource management planning regulations require the formulation of alternatives. Each alternative represents a complete and reasonable plan to guide future management of public land and resources. One alternative must represent no action. This means a continuation of the existing situation. The other alternatives are to provide a range of reasonable and practical choices in dealing with the issues identified during the scoping period.

Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative

This chapter presents both the alternatives considered by BLM and a summary of the impacts of these alternatives. These alternatives respond to the issues listed in Chapter 1. This range of alternatives is reasonable, given the existing natural resource values, public opinion, and the decision of the Department that these lands should be dedicated to scientific research. Two alternatives were developed for discussion and analysis. Both of these alternatives were considered reasonable and practical.

In addition to these a third alternative, the no-action alternative, (i.e. continuation of the existing situation) was included for analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Refer to Summary of Impacts table for a comparison of the three alternatives.

Guidance Common to Alternatives One and Two

- Designate Iceberg Point and Point Colville as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to preserve their natural values.
- Prohibit all fires.
- Prohibit any trail construction.
- Prohibit overnight camping.
- Allow motorized vehicular travel to continue on the road crossing Point Colville.
- Prohibit all other motorized vehicular travel, except for emergency vehicles, authorized vehicles, including the U. S. Coast Guard vehicles used for maintenance of the navigational facility on Iceberg Point, and

- Prohibit fuel wood cutting and commercial timber sales.
- Require permits for any vegetation collection.
- Survey and clearly mark the boundaries of both parcels.
- Acquire public access to both sites:

Point Colville—The preferred access into Point Colville would be along the existing private road. BLM would negotiate with those private parties owning the land between the termination of the county road and the public land boundary for access.

Iceberg Point—The preferred type of access to this parcel is pedestrian access along the existing private roads in the area. BLM would negotiate with those private parties owning the land between the termination of the county road and the public land boundary for a trail easement.

- Incorporate any additional land adjacent to or in the vicinity of Iceberg Point or Point Colville coming under BLM administration in the future such as the Coast Guard withdrawn lands, donated properties, or land acquired through exchange or purchase, into the ACEC designation. (At the present time BLM is negotiating with Washington State Department of Natural Resources for approximately 20 acres of DNR land located east of Iceberg Point)
- Prohibit rights of way for additional roads, powerlines, pipelines or communication facilities.
- Prohibit mineral material sales.
- Prohibit grazing of livestock.
- Design management activities to protect federally or state listed threatened, endangered and/or sensitive species.

Alternative One

This is the Preferred Alternative. Under this alternative the emphasis would be on preserving the natural values of Iceberg Point and Point Colville.

Opportunities for visitor use would be provided to the extent they are compatible with the preservation of natural values. If a choice must be made between preservation of the natural values and allowing visitor use, preservation of the natural values will be the primary consideration. Specific actions included in this alternative are as follows:

- Place signs to control visitor use as necessary.
- Require special permits for groups containing ten or more individuals.
- Enter into a Law Enforcement Agreement with the County Sheriff.

Table 1. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS/COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES ¹

Affected Resource	Alternative		
	Alt. (1) Preferred	Alt. (2) Research	Alt. (3) No Action
Soil Erosion	█	█	█
Mineral Resource			
Vegetative Resource	█	█	█
Naturalness	█	█	█
Recreation Use	█	█	█
Wildlife Habitat	█		█
Water Resource			
Cultural Resource			
Visual Resource			

¹ Displays relative impacts. For specific information see Chapter 4.
 Deviation above the line indicates an increase.
 Deviation below the line indicates a decrease.
 No deviation from the base line indicates no impact or no change from the current situation.

- Establish regular patrols by BLM law enforcement officers and/or personnel during high use periods.
- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with adjacent land owners, interested parties and special interest groups to implement the plan.
- Establish a monitoring program independent of the above, focusing on preserving natural qualities of the areas. This program would first require defining the desired natural conditions and to undertake actions when necessary to maintain or achieve these conditions.
- Close the areas to any use or combination of uses that tend to degrade the natural values of the sites.

Alternative Two

Under this alternative the primary management emphasis would be for research and educational purposes. Other visitor uses would not be allowed. Authorized use of Iceberg Point and Point Colville would be limited to research and educational purposes. Specific actions included in this alternative are as follows:

- Require permits for all uses.
- Discourage nonscientific uses.
- Limit all signing to resource protection purposes.
- Acquire only administrative access in support of management, research and educational purposes.
- Enter into a Law Enforcement Agreement with the County Sheriff.

- Establish regular patrols by BLM law enforcement officers and/or other BLM personnel during high use periods.
- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with adjacent land owners, interested parties and special interest groups to implement the plan.
- Establish a monitoring program independent of the above, focusing on preserving natural qualities of the areas. This program would first require defining the desired natural conditions and to undertake actions when necessary to maintain or achieve these conditions.

Alternative Three

This is the No Action Alternative. It describes the continuation of the existing situation. Under this alternative no formal protective designations would be made. The following activities would be permitted to continue.

- Permit dispersed camping on both parcels.
- Permit the use of open camp fires to continue subject to local fire district closures.
- Iceberg Point and Point Colville would be open to off-road vehicle use.
- Permits would be required for the collecting and cutting of fuelwood.
- Do not acquire public access.
- Survey and clearly mark the boundaries of both parcels.

Chapter 3—Affected Environment

Introduction

This chapter provides a brief description of the resources that would be affected by the proposals in the Planning Analysis. More detailed information on these lands and resources is available upon request from the District and Area Offices.

Existing Situation

Iceberg Point

Soil Resource

The soils on this parcel are moderately well-drained to well drained glacial tills on the uplands with rock outcrops dominating the shorelines. Approximately 15 %, or eight acres, of the area consists of rock outcrops. The remaining soils consist of a gravelly, sandy loam ranging in depth from two to five feet. The rock is barren in many places, but in some areas lichens and moss are attached to the rock surfaces. The topography displays a gently undulating character. The surface layer of the soil is black, gravelly, sandy loam with a fine granular structure. Subsoil and substratum is mostly dark brown, loamy, coarse sand.

Erosion by wind and water is at the geologic rate except on the areas disturbed by the roads, trails, and other human improvements. These areas are quite small, totaling less than one-half of an acre. Here the erosion rate was greater but has since stabilized and is now relatively insignificant.

Geologic Resource

The present topography is a result of the glaciation of 10,000 years ago and wind, rain, and wave action. The glaciers carved the terrain scouring the hills and depositing the ground moraine of glacial till over the lower areas. These tills are easily eroded where they are subject to wave and wind action. Generally small sand and gravel beaches are formed below the till bluffs between rock headlands. These rock headlands are generally greenstones, phyllite and greenshists. There has been a small landslide in the greenstone on the extreme northeast tip of the parcel.

No commercial mineral values are known to exist on Iceberg Point.

Water Resource

Fresh water data for the area is not readily available, but precipitation data indicates that the average annual runoff on Iceberg Point is about five inches. The average precipitation of Iceberg Point is approximately sixteen to seventeen inches. Greatest precipitation occurs in the months of October through March with most in December. The lowest average amount occurs during July. Some snowfall occurs nearly every year. Temperatures are usually high enough that it does not last. Precipitation does not fall through any significant pollutants. No plant damage was noted on the point as a result of polluted precipitation. There are no live or intermittent streams on the land to carry a sediment load.

Vegetative Resource

Several terrestrial communities exist on the area including forest, meadow, bluffs, and the area between mean high tide and extreme high tide.

The forest community covers approximately thirty acres and is dominated by Douglas fir and white fir in the overstory; alder, Pacific yew, Pacific madrone, and sapling conifers in the immediate understory; wild rose, serviceberry, salmonberry, red flowering currant, salal, ferns, and associate grasses make up the species assemblage on the forest floor. Several large snags scattered throughout this area at present are still standing. Understory production is heavy in most areas of the community, making travel difficult. The old growth trees here and at Point Colville are believed to be the last remaining virgin stands on Lopez Island. Their age is well over 200 years.

The meadow community is located on the south half of the area. Its total area is approximately twenty acres and includes the rock outcrops. It is characterized by open grass interspersed with wild strawberry, wild rose, forb, sedges, and lichen, the latter being found on the exposed rock outcrops.

The bluff area is located along the south and north shore line of the parcel, between the high-tide area and the meadow and/or forested area. The face of this relatively steep area contains some lichens, grasses, and forbs. These can be found clinging to the rocky ledges and bluff faces. This area is approximately two miles long and covers approximately six acres.

The area between mean high tide and high tide is relatively free of plant life but does contain a scattering of sedges and forbs at the high tide level. No other species were noted.

Inhabiting this site are no known vegetative species listed as threatened or endangered either federally or by the State. However, a population of chick lupine, a species on the Washington State Natural Heritage Plan "monitor" list, has been found on this site. A population of Idaho fescue, rare in the Puget Trough, has also been identified, however this population is in poor condition due to dominance by weedy species.

Wildlife Habitat Resource

Aquatic mammals using the area are limited. Species include the San Juan otter, mink, and several seals. The otter, mink, and seals are reported to use the shoreline in the area for sunning, resting, and feeding. Total numbers are small but, because of their shyness to man the protected areas are sometimes used quite heavily.

Aquatic birds use the cliff area and the adjoining intertidal zone for resting, feeding, and escape. No nesting sites have been reported for the area, but some may exist. Total numbers are high, with reports of over 100 different species using the area during the course of a year. These include grebes, cormorants, gulls, waterfowl, guillemot, scooters, terns, auklets, murre, oyster catchers, and other assorted shorebirds.

Terrestrial mammals identified on the area-either through observation, droppings, or tracks-include black-tail deer, Nuttall's cottontail, Townsend's voles, mice, chipmunks, raccoon, and European rabbit. Black-tail deer, which are estimated by the Washington State Department of Wildlife at over thirty per square mile for this area, use the parcel regularly. The brushy areas offer escape and bedding cover while the overstory and topography give protection from wind, snow, and rain. Browse production is good, but heavy use was not noted.

Terrestrial birds in the area are quite abundant. The area affords food, safety from predators, and nesting areas for pheasant, woodpeckers, nuthatches, creepers, chickadees, voles, hummingbirds, warblers, wrens, kingfisher, and sparrows. Rotting and decaying trees offer insects for food and cavities for nests.

The only listed Threatened or Endangered Species observed utilizing the area is the bald eagle. This species has been sighted roosting and foraging in the area. A number of whales and porpoise use the nearshore waters, and the Shaw Island Vole a Federal Category II species, is present.

Large trees also provide roosting and potential nesting habitat for bald eagle, red-tail hawks, and American kestrel. Although no nesting sites have been reported, these species have been seen using the area for hunting and resting, and it is assumed to be a portion of their asserted territories.

Human Influence

Human activity has been limited mainly to local residents, so most mammals are afforded a sense of security from harassment and hunting. However, spent shotgun shells have been found along the road and in the meadow area. Human influence, as small as it has been on the area, has contributed to soil erosion. The main road was reportedly built by a reef netter and county commissioner in the 1930's. The county gravelled the road and thereby inhibited some of the wind erosion which could have been severe.

There has been intermittent ORV activity occurring on Iceberg Point. This has resulted in the disturbance to vegetation and the creation of random trail-like paths in the meadow area.

Cultural Resource Values

An inventory for cultural resources was conducted and none were identified.

Lands

The lands adjoining the Iceberg Point parcel fall under three different types of ownership: The lands to the east in section 24 are under private ownership; to the immediate west in lot 5 of section 23 there are nine acres of Federal lands which are withdrawn from multiple use and are managed by the U.S. Coast Guard for navigational purposes; to the south in section 25 are twenty acres of land managed by the Department of Natural Resources. These lands have been identified in the DNR's San Juan Islands Trust Land Management Plan of May 1986 for protection of their natural values. The recommended alternative in that plan was to preserve the area for "public educational and scientific use." This plan discussed the possibility of a land exchange between DNR and BLM whereby BLM would acquire the DNR parcel and

manage it in conjunction with the ACEC designation of the adjacent BLM parcel. DNR and BLM have an existing land exchange proposal in process which would accomplish this goal.

There is no public access to the Iceberg Point parcel. A private road extends from the end of the county in section 24 and passes through the proposed ACEC and ends on the Coast Guard withdrawn lands. This road is used basically for maintenance of the navigational beacon (see Map).

Point Colville

Soil Resource

The soils on this parcel are similar in nature to those on Iceberg Point, both being heavily influenced by glaciation. The major difference between these areas are the soils in the depressional areas of Point Colville. The soils in these depressional areas, being poorly drained, form what is commonly known as bogs. There are numerous humps in these bogs which consist of decaying logs, stumps, and other plant root systems. Like the soils on Iceberg Point, erosion by wind and water on the site is at the geologic rate with no evident influence by man except on the road area.

Geologic Resource

The present topographic features were formed by the glaciation of Puget Sound 10,000 years ago. The glaciers scoured the area and laid down an unstratified till deposit. Melting of buried ice in these deposits probably caused the small depressions where the bog areas now occur. These bogs or wet depressions are the final eutrophication of the glacial pond. Glacial till overlain by soil covers most of the area. At one site near the southeast corner of the lot the soil cover is thirty feet high where it forms a bluff along the shoreline. The material is subject to constant erosion by wave action of the waters of Rosario Strait. As a result, the bluff is receding. Adjacent lands to the north, up to Watmough Head, are also subject to this same geologic erosion. From the appearance of the beach and topography the ground moraine of glacial till probably extended several hundred yards east shortly after the glaciers receded. Outcrops of metamorphosed igneous rocks comprise most of the remaining coast line. These rocks are predominantly greenstones, greenshists, and phyllite. The hill on the extreme northeast edge of the lot is a greenstone.

No commercial mineral values are known to exist on Point Colville.

Water Resource

Fresh water data for the area is not readily available, but precipitation data indicates that the average annual runoff on Point Colville is about five inches. Average precipitation is approximately sixteen to seventeen inches. The greatest precipitation occurs from October through March with the most falling during the month of December. The least average amount falling in July. Two small depressions collect water and hold it most of the year near the west and south boundaries of the BLM parcel. A small deposit of Pleistocene glacial sediments is near the northeast boundary. There are no live or intermittent streams on the land to carry a sediment load.

Vegetative Resource

Several terrestrial communities exist on the area including forest, meadow, brush, bog, bluffs, and the area between mean high tide and extreme high tide.

The forest community covers approximately thirty-six acres and is dominated by old growth Douglas fir, and white fir in the overstory; alder, Pacific yew, Pacific madrone, and sapling conifers in the immediate understory; wild rose, serviceberry, salmonberry, red flowering currant, ferns, and associate grasses make up the species assemblage on the forest floor. Several large snags are scattered throughout this area. Understory production is limited because of the old-growth canopy, but several shade-tolerant species have managed to become established. Five trees along the county road were cut many years ago, as evidenced by the remaining stumps and springboard notches. Evidence of wildfire was also seen on trees, but its effect apparently was small. The overstory trees exhibit considerable defect from storm breakage and disease.

The meadow community is located on the south end of the parcel. Its total area is approximately thirteen acres. It is characterized by open grass interspersed with wild strawberry, wild rose, forbs, and lichen, the latter being found on the exposed rock outcrops.

The brushy area, located on the west line and north of the meadow community, comprises approximately five acres. Species here are primarily alder, with rose, currant, serviceberry, conifer seedlings, forbs, and some grasses.

The two bog areas cover approximately two acres. The smaller area, located on the west line, is approximately two acres in size with only one-half acre on public lands. The other area, totaling one and one-half acres, is located in the south central portion of the unit. The western bog area is surrounded by willow, alder, currant, wet meadow grasses, snowberry, and conifer seedlings. The area is quite thick with spruce and fir for several feet along the edge but opens up quickly and gives way to old-growth overstory.

The central bog area is larger and contains several species not found in the western area. Species here include Sitka spruce, trailing blackberry, alder, Douglas fir, and Oregon grape around the perimeter with small Sitka spruce and grape fern growing on hillocks within the bog. The grape fern is reportedly rare in this region. Some of the Douglas fir saplings around the bog were showing symptoms of chlorosis.

Old aerial photos and species invasion reveal that both bog areas are aging toward a terrestrial ecosystem condition. Photos taken in 1963 show the bogs were approximately twice as large as they are now. Most of the tree species adjacent to the bogs are relatively small except for some large spruce near the central bog area. Two of these Sitka spruce have grown together, making one very large tree.

The bluff area is similar in composition to that described for Iceberg Point. It occupies approximately three acres along the south boundary of the area between the high tide area and the southern meadow and forest area.

The area between mean high tide and high tide area contains approximately one acre. This area is relatively free of plant life but contains a scattering of sedges and forbs at the high tide level. No other species were noted.

Wildlife Habitat Resource

The species on this parcel are very similar to those described inhabiting Iceberg Point.

Human influence

Human activity on this area has been very limited. A private road was built in the 1880's across the north portion of the parcel. This road affords access to the original homesteader's residence and private properties to the east of the area. There is evidence of logging activities south of this road. These activities were confined to an area from one to two hundred feet of the road. A youth camp located on the island has used Point Colville for outdoor activities including hiking, bird watching, and outdoor education. There is evidence of fire wood cutting on areas adjacent to the road.

Cultural Resource Values

An inventory for cultural resources was conducted and none were identified.

Lands

The lands adjoining Point Colville are all under private ownership and are managed for agricultural or residential purposes.

There is no public access to this parcel. A road crosses the north end and provides private access for local residents to their properties east of the proposed ACEC.

Chapter 4-Environmental Consequences

Introduction

This chapter describes the environmental consequences (impacts) that would result from implementing each of the alternatives. These environmental consequences are compared to the existing Situation.

Knowledge of the area and professional judgement, based on observation and analysis of conditions and responses in similar areas, have been used to infer environmental impacts where data is limited.

There would be virtually no impact to the livestock grazing, water, minerals, cultural, or visual resource programs.

Impacts to Soil

Under Alternative 1 because of casual use the existing trails would essentially remain in existing condition. Under Alternative 2, because of the reduction in visitor use due to limited access, the trails would become less apparent as the vegetative cover increases.

Under Alternative 3, there would be a continual decrease in soil productivity as known campsites become established. Random trail development would result in an increase in soil erosion and an associated decrease in soil productivity.

None of the actions affecting the soil resource under any of the alternatives would result in significant impacts to the human environment.

Impacts to Mineral Resource

These lands are withdrawn from mining and mineral leasing. Consequently, none of the alternatives would have any impact on mineral resources.

Impacts to Vegetation

Under Alternative 1, restricting motorized vehicles would result in an increase in vegetative cover, since indiscriminate trail development from motorized vehicles would be discouraged. Prohibiting fuelwood cutting would result in a build-up of vegetative litter on

both Iceberg Point and Point Colville. Vegetative cover on the existing trails would essentially remain in the current condition. Under Alternative 2 the impacts would be similar in intensity and effect to those described for Alternative 1, except that vegetative cover would gradually obliterate the existing trails since visitor use would be essentially eliminated. Under Alternative 3, greater impacts would occur to the vegetative resource than under either Alternative 1 or 2. Overnight camping would be permitted to continue. This would cause a decrease in vegetative cover around the immediate campsite areas. There would be a decrease in surface litter due to fuel wood collection for campfires. There would be a decrease in vegetation on trails developed indiscriminately.

None of the above would significantly affect the human environment.

Impacts to Visitor Use

Under Alternative 1 legal access to the two sites could result in an increase in day use activities. This impact is not expected to be significant. Restrictions on vehicle use would eliminate, off-road vehicle riding on the areas. Prohibiting overnight camping is not expected to result in any significant impact to visitor use activities. Prohibiting fuelwood cutting would allow surface litter to build up, thus increasing or enhancing the naturalness of these areas. Under Alternative 2, the exclusive natural area restriction would result in a decrease in visitor use of the areas. This would increase or enhance the natural values since the disturbance associated with visitation would be significantly reduced. Under Alternative 3 naturalness would decrease due to increased recreation use. The most notable impact would be from off road vehicle use, overnight camping and the associated activities, such as camp fire ring development, increase in trails and so forth. The level of recreation use is anticipated to increase slightly. However, due to the lack of legal public access this increase should not be significant.

Impacts to Lands and Realty

Public access to both sites would reduce trespass over private lands for individuals utilizing both parcels.

Impacts to Wildlife Habitat Resource

Under Alternative 1 the increase in visitor use would cause an increase in disturbance to wildlife which utilize both areas. Those that may be affected are passerine birds which utilize the upland areas and sealife including river otters which utilize the tidal pools of both sites. As visitor use increases, the disturbance may cause the more mobile species to move and utilize other areas. Those that are less mobile may decline in number. The impacts associated for Alternative 3 would be similar in nature to those caused by Alternative 1. However there could be a slight increase in the intensity of the impacts due to unrestricted use of the area such as camping or picnicking. None of these impacts would be significant. Under Alternative 2 the change would be negligible.

Relationship Between Short-Term Use and Long Term Productivity, and Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources

There would not be any measurable short-term losses in productivity resulting from these actions. Nor would there be any irreversible commitments of resources. The cumulative impacts associated with adopting any of the alternatives would be negligible when compared to the existing ecological conditions of Iceberg Point and Point Colville.

Chapter 5—Consultation and Distribution

Introduction

This Planning Analysis was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists from the Spokane District Office and the Wenatchee Resource Area Office. Although this planning analysis began in August of 1987, it is the culmination of a complex process that had its beginning more than ten years ago. This process included resource inventory, public participation, and interagency and governmental coordination. Consultation and coordination with organizations and individuals occurred in a variety of ways throughout the planning process.

Consistency Review

Prior to approval of the Final Planning Analysis, the State Director will submit the plan to the Governor of Washington to provide the opportunity to identify any known inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs. The consistency of the plan with the resource-related plans, programs, and policies of other federal agencies, state and local government, and Indian tribes will be reevaluated in the future as part of the formal monitoring and periodic evaluation of the plan.

Spokane District Advisory Council

The Bureau's Spokane District Advisory Council has been consulted regarding this proposal. Their concerns have been considered in the development of this planning analysis.

Agencies and Organizations Consulted

The Planning Analysis team consulted with and/or received input from the following organizations during the development of this plan:

State and Local Governments

Washington State Department of Wildlife
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
San Juan County Commissioners
Washington State Department of Natural Resources,
Natural Heritage Program

Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Coast Guard

State Agencies and Elected Officials

Office of the Governor
Office of the Secretary of State Washington
Washington State Library
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Department of Wildlife
Washington State Department of Fisheries
Washington State Department of Natural Resources,
Natural Heritage Program

County

San Juan County Commissioners
San Juan County Planning Department
San Juan County Library
San Juan County Sheriffs Department

State Legislature

Senator Patrick R. McMullen
Senator Lowell Peterson
Representative Harriet Spanel
Representative Jim Youngsman

Congressional

U.S. Senator Slade Gorton
U.S. Senator Brock Adams
U.S. Representative Al Swift

Organizations

Audubon Society
Sierra Club
Washington Environmental Council
Washington State Sportsmen Council
University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratory

In addition to those listed above, the draft was sent to the local news media and individuals who expressed their interest to BLM in the future management of the public lands on Lopez Island.

Chapter 6-List of Preparers

While individuals have primary responsibility for preparing sections of the document it is essentially an interdisciplinary team effort. In addition, internal review of the document occurred throughout preparation. Specialists at the Area, District and State Office levels of the BLM both reviewed the analysis and

supplied information. Contributions by individual preparers were subject to review and possible revision by other BLM specialists and by management during the internal review process,

James Fisher, Area Manager
Neal Hedges, Wildlife Biologist
Mark St. John, Public Affairs
Ron Vanbianchi, Contract Botanist
Gary Yeager, Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Judy Thompson, Archaeologist

Appendices

Appendix A-Finding of No Significant Impact for Iceberg Point and Point Colville Planning Analysis and Environmental Assessment

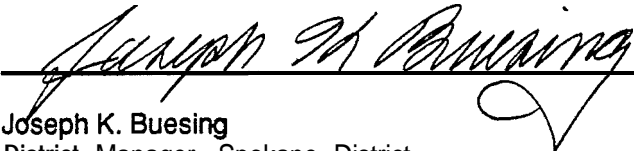
The Bureau of Land Management Spokane District analyzed alternatives for managing the public lands on Iceberg Point and Point Colville. The alternatives described and analyzed in this planning analysis and environmental assessment were made available for public review on April 1, 1988. The environmental assessment did not reveal any significant environmental effects.

Based on the following considerations no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment are anticipated.

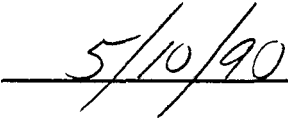
1. The analysis of Alternatives did not reveal any actions that would permanently affect the natural values or constitute an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources on Iceberg Point or Point Colville.
2. The analysis did not reveal any significant adverse impacts to society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality.
3. Public health or safety would not be affected.
4. The proposed action does not violate Federal, State, or local law requirements regarding flood plain, wild and scenic river, prime or unique farmlands, or known paleontological resources within the area.
5. The proposed action would not result in cumulative significant adverse impacts to the important and relevant resource values of the areas involved.
6. There are no cultural resources present that would be affected by the proposal.
7. The proposed action would not significantly affect endangered or threatened species or their habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
8. Designating the areas as an ACEC to preserve their natural values would not result in any significant change in land use.
9. The ACEC designation would be in conformance with San Juan County's recommendation to manage Iceberg Point and Point Colville as Natural Areas.
10. There are no known inconsistencies with officially approved or adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.

FONSI Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that this proposed decision does not constitute a major Federal Action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (a finding of no significant impact). Therefore, an environmental impact statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared.



Joseph K. Buesing
District Manager, Spokane District



Date

Appendix B-Protest Procedures

A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process and should be filed with the Director (202), Bureau of Land Management, 1800 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 within the official 30-day protest period 30 days from the publication of this document. Protests must contain the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
- A statement of the part or parts being protested.
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
- A concise statement explaining why the Spokane District Manager's decision is wrong.

Inclusion of this information will enable BLM to accurately respond to the protest in a timely and efficient manner.

Thank you.

off Land is responsible for the management of about 300 million acres of public land, about one-eighth of our Nation's land area. These lands are managed pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 under the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield for the benefit of all Americans.

In Washington, the BLM manages several hundred thousand acres of public land resources out of a District Office in Spokane and a Resource Area Office in Wenatchee. Areas of management emphasis include twelve Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, The Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area, the Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area, several areas popular for outdoor recreation, and several thousand acres cooperatively managed with the Department of Wildlife for wildlife habitat. Other lands managed by the Spokane District are valuable for grazing, timber production, mineral exploration, and for a variety of renewable and nonrenewable resource activities.

For more information, please contact the District Manager, Spokane District Office, East 4217 Main Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99202, (509) 353-2570, or the Area Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area Office, 1133 North Western Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, (509) 662-4223.

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District Office
East 4217 Main Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202

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