

Barber Pool Conservation Area Master Plan

Submitted to:
The Friends of Barber Pool Conservation Area
Boise, Idaho

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Submitted by:
Walla Walla District
US Army Corps of Engineers

BARBER POOL CONSERVATION AREA MASTER PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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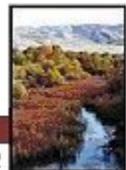
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In Memoriam

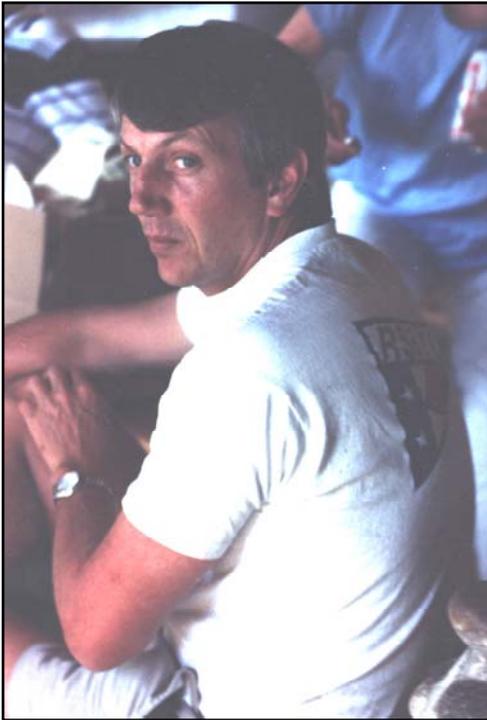
Christopher Karl Korte

February 3, 1950

To

July 13, 2001

As a fourth-generation Idahoan, Chris set firm roots in Idaho. He had a great passion for the outdoors and pursued many interests in that environment including bicycling, skiing, kayaking, fishing, and photography.



He became the Ada County Zoning Administrator, and formulated the land use plan for all of Ada County (including Boise, the Idaho State capitol). He took a keen interest in the Greenbelt that parallels the Boise River for 21 miles. After working on planning and zoning issues at the county level for 12 years, he founded his own business—*Land Dynamics*. Not only did he devote hours to land management and development issues, he also served on the Bogus Basin Board of Directors for 10 years, and was a past president of the Boise Valley Fly Fisherman.

One of Chris' greatest joys was his involvement with the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, where he served as director for 12 years. He took a personal interest in various state-wide land holdings. He advocated a management plan for the Barber Pool Conservation Area,

and was busy working on its development when he became ill. He worked to bring the Foundation into the computer age so that others could discover the many projects and possibilities available through the Foundation. He created a web page, took photographs, obtained satellite coordinates, and discussed the project at www.idaholands.org.

Chris constantly strove to balance growth and quality of life in Idaho. He saw the Barber Pool Conservation Area as a major asset for generations to come.

This Barber Pool Conservation Area Master Plan and Inventory and Analysis was his dream. (--Sharon Hubler)



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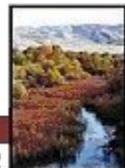
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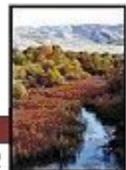
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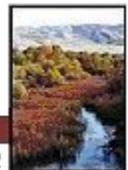
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BARBER POOL CONSERVATION AREA DRAFT MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

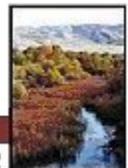
The Barber Pool Conservation Area (hereafter, BPCA) is located approximately 6 miles east of downtown Boise, on the Boise River. It contains one of the last intact black cottonwood stands in the rapidly urbanizing Boise Area. The BPCA is heavily utilized by over two hundred species of wildlife, including bald eagles, and mule deer. This makes the BPCA a place of tremendous significance to wildlife, conservationists, and the scientific community.

The BPCA study area covers 712.6 acres. The Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, (hereafter IFPL), owns approximately 44 percent of the land within the BPCA study area. The State of Idaho, Ada County, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and the Federal government own another 25 percent of the lands in the study area. Private owners hold the remaining 31 percent of lands within the BPCA study area.

The Friends of Barber Pool Conservation Area (Friends of BPCA) formed in 1999 to support the effort to enhance and protect the BPCA and the wildlife habitat it contains. The mission of the Friends of BPCA is to “preserve, restore, and enhance the functions and values of the Barber Pool Conservation Area ecosystem through partnerships, collaborative efforts, and public appreciation.”

The primary goals of the Friends of BPCA are to protect and enhance the habitat value of the BPCA for fish and wildlife, utilize the BPCA as an educational setting, and to provide non-intrusive recreational opportunities (compatible with ecological goals) to the general public.

The Master Plan will serve as a guide for future management of the BPCA. The supporting technical document, the Inventory and Analysis, will assist with future decisions regarding the ecological health and management of the BPCA, and human interaction with the area, by providing documentation of existing conditions. The Master Plan provides management recommendations for the BPCA based upon existing conditions and the potential for the site. Management recommendations were developed within the framework of goals set out by the Friends of BPCA.



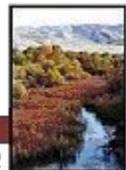
The goals for the Master Plan, as stated by the Friends of BPCA, are as follows:

1. Describe natural resources of the entire Barber Pool Conservation Area
2. Describe current ecological, human, and aesthetic uses of Barber Pool Conservation Area lands (*i.e.*, habitat use, recreational use, and existing facilities.)
3. Identify current ecosystem components and conditions necessary to sustain desired wildlife and plant habitat.
4. Identify desired habitat improvements.
5. Identify educational and recreational uses compatible to objectives #3 and #4.
6. Identify mechanisms to generate resources (revenues, labor, *etc.*) to enable implementation of strategies
7. Identify additional land that would further the mission of the Friends of the Barber Pool Conservation Area.

Management recommendations developed for the BPCA are presented within the framework of the three primary goals outlined at the start of the process: Protection of the BPCA as a conservation resource, utilization of the BPCA as an educational setting, and non-intrusive public recreation, as is compatible with conservation objectives.

Management recommendations supporting the protection of the BPCA as a conservation area include:

- Restoration of native vegetative communities
- Control of noxious weeds
- Continued scientific study of the area
- Enhancement of aquatic habitat to benefit fisheries and bald eagles
- Possible site adjustments of Boise River side-channels to make them more suitable for black cottonwood regeneration
- Coordination with water management entities to make more water available within the BPCA when possible.
- Acquisition of adjacent properties from willing sellers



Management recommendations supporting the utilization of the BPCA as an educational setting include:

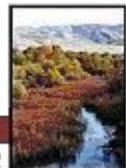
- Continued scientific and academic study of the BPCA
- Development of interpretive displays and facilities related to the natural and human history of the site, (possibly coordinated with other agencies that manage lands nearby, such as Idaho State Department of Fish and Game, US Bureau of Reclamation, and the City of Boise)
- A series of traveling displays and informational programs targeting different audiences and age groups, for presentation at community events and meetings. The display and programs will help the public understand the ecosystem at the BPCA, and it's value to wildlife and humans
- Presentations to adjacent landowners and homeowner groups about wildlife habitat needs, landscaping for wildlife, and other efforts that they can undertake to manage their land in concert with the management goals of the BPCA
- Continued support of educational opportunities such as Bald eagle Day, hosted by the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation at the headquarters of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival

Management recommendations supporting the utilization of the BPCA as a low-impact recreational setting include:

- Development of a short, self-guided interpretive trail near the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters, or other compatible area
- Clarification of areas that are available to the public for recreation, and those that are closed to the public, and the reasons for the closure
- Continued cooperation with the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation as providers of information about the BPCA to the public
- Continued support of, and cooperation with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival

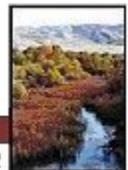
The BPCA has been recognized by many different entities as an important community resource. It has received such distinctions as:

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service "Idaho Unique Wildlife System"
2. Endorsement from the Lasting Legacy Committee of the Idaho Centennial Commission
3. Endorsement as an "Idaho State Important Bird Area" from the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy



In public informational meetings held in support of the master planning effort, the Friends of BPCA consistently received comments about the importance of the natural character of the BPCA. Overall, meeting participants supported the goals of the Friends of BPCA for preservation of BPCA resources, and educational and limited recreational opportunities.

Increased development in the vicinity of the BPCA threatens the ecological integrity of the area by eliminating buffer lands and increasing disturbance to wildlife caused by human interaction. Surrounding agricultural lands once utilized by wildlife have been converted to residential areas, further squeezing resources available to wildlife in the area. This development makes it crucial that the BPCA is protected, and habitat values within the BPCA are enhanced.



SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE BARBER POOL CONSERVATION AREA

The BPCA is located approximately 6 miles east of downtown Boise on the Boise River. It is an important wildlife viewing and habitat area, supporting a population of wintering bald eagles, and located within ¼ mile of the Idaho State Department of Fish and Game Boise River Wildlife Management Area. The BPCA includes quality wetland, riparian, and shrub-steppe habitat, which supports over 200 species of birds, and 60 species of reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

1.2 PURPOSE

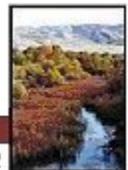
1.2.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

The Master Plan will serve as a guiding document for future management of the BPCA.

1.2.2 Objectives of the Friends of Barber Pool Conservation Area

The Friends of BPCA formed with the goal of protecting the resources and habitat value of the BPCA. The group is made up of representatives from 13 different entities, both public and private. Members of the Friends of BPCA represent the following entities:

- Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Shakespeare Festival
- Ada County
- Boise City Parks and Recreation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Land Trust of the Treasure Valley
- Golden Eagle Audubon
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Boise (Cascade) Corporation
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Bureau of Land Management



1.3 SCOPE

The agreement between Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (hereafter IDPR), representing Friends of BPCA, and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) stated that the Corps would provide a Master Plan and an ArcView© GIS database to the Friends of BPCA. The geographic scope of the study area was defined as the area between Boise Diversion Dam and Barber Dam, and New York Canal and Warm Springs Avenue. For a base map of the study area (refer to [Plate 1](#)).

1.4 COORDINATION

The project scope was agreed upon in December 2000. Since that time, the Corps and the Friends of BPCA have met monthly, either in person or via conference call. Additionally, many personal communications have occurred in an effort to keep the Friends of BPCA updated and involved in the progress of the Master Plan.

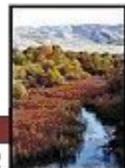
1.4.1 Corps and Friends of Barber Pool Conservation Area Partnership

The Corps of Engineers joined the Friends of the BPCA in their planning effort in August 2000. Under the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program, the Corps may provide 50-50 cost sharing for planning projects. This program was instituted to assist states, local governments, and other non-Federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. The PAS program is congressionally authorized by Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

1.4.2 Coordination with other contributing agencies

The following entities provided technical assistance to the Master Planning effort:

- Community Planning Association (COMPASS)
- US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Idaho State Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Conservation Data Center
- Idaho State Department of Water Resources
- Ada County
- City of Boise
- Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands



1.5 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Friends of BPCA and the Corps engaged in a one- year, interdisciplinary environmental planning process to formulate a master plan that would guide the management and enhancement of the BPCA.

1.5.1 Inventory and Analysis

The first step in the creation of the Master Plan was the inventory of existing conditions and resources. The inventory gives planners a snapshot of the site as it exists at the beginning of the project. The inventory was conducted using existing information gathered from various agencies and other resources, such as the Idaho Conservation Data Center and the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Landscape architects, a wildlife biologist, and an archaeologist from the Corps conducted site visits in May 2001, in order to check data and visually inventory the site.

Data collected by the Corps was entered into an Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) ArcView© GIS to assist in the analysis of the data. The GIS base data and analysis will be housed at the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, and utilized by land managers of the BPCA.

1.5.2 Project Resource Objectives

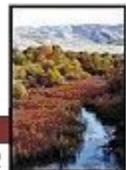
Resource Objectives were developed in a working session with the Friends of BPCA scoping team in April 2002. The Resource Objectives were based on the original goals for the BPCA, which were set out at the beginning of the planning process.

1.5.3 Land Classifications

Land Classifications developed by the scoping team were meant to communicate, in the simplest terms, the character of each parcel. This characterization will help guide future management of parcels within the BPCA.

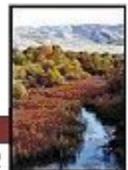
1.5.4 Management Units

A management unit is the designation of a geographic area that will be managed consistently toward the same goals. These goals were determined by the resource objective, land use classification, and the present condition of the area. An interdisciplinary planning team, through analysis of the present conditions, determined the management units.



1.5.5 Recommendations

Management recommendations have been developed for each management unit, and for the BPCA as a whole. Recommendations were made based on the goals set out by the Friends of BPCA, the current condition of the resource, and the capacity of each parcel to meet the goals set out by the Friends of BPCA.



SECTION 2 – INFLUENCING AND CONSTRAINING FACTORS

2.1 GENERAL

This section is a summary of the important environmental, cultural, and aesthetic factors that were taken into consideration to determine the best management practices for the BPCA.

2.2 SUMMARY OF PROJECT FACTORS AND ANALYSIS

2.2.1 Ecological Factors

a. Hydrology

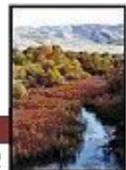
A dam on a free-flowing river originally formed the Barber Pool. Historic maps and photos chart the changes in the river, showing the area as a large pond, which, through many years of scouring and deposition, has returned to its current riverine configuration. Barber Dam now operates as a run-of-river dam. Siltation behind the dam, and the lowering of control gates on the dam, has resulted in lowered hydrology within the BPCA.

The two dams immediately upstream of the BPCA control the current hydrology of the BPCA: Lucky Peak Dam, and Boise Diversion Dam. The water in Lucky Peak reservoir is allocated for recreation, and released for irrigation. Boise Diversion Dam diverts water for irrigation purposes from April through September. The water is diverted into the New York Canal, and Penitentiary Canal. There is a small possibility that more water may be made available to the BPCA by the New York Canal Water district and the US Bureau of Reclamation. A decision will be made regarding irrigation diversions and Boise Diversion Dam outflows in 2003.

b. Climate

The precipitation and snow pack in the Boise Basin affects the hydrology of the Boise River, although these effects have been moderated by several upstream dams. Precipitation also impacts the quality and quantity of vegetation, making food and cover for wildlife more abundant in those years with average or above-average precipitation and sparser in dry years.

Colder temperatures also are a factor in the movement of wildlife. Cold winters concentrate wintering bald eagles along the Boise River corridor. Cold temperatures, combined with deep snow, cause big game to migrate from the foothills to lower elevations.



c. Land Cover and Vegetation

The BPCA is surrounded by the shrub-steppe vegetative community in the foothills, which changes to grassland and cottonwood forest closer to the Boise River. The BPCA contains important wetland and palustrine forest vegetative types.

One community associated with these vegetative types is the yellow willow community, named by the Idaho Conservation Data Center as a sensitive vegetative community in the State of Idaho. Rapid urbanization in the vicinity of the BPCA makes these riparian and wetland vegetative communities even more valuable, as human encroachment further threatens to compromise the integrity of native vegetative communities.



Photo 1: The BPCA contains important wetland and palustrine forest communities.

d. Wildlife

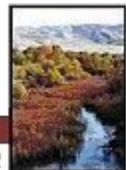
The BPCA provides habitat to various species of wildlife. Over 200 bird species have been documented in the BPCA, and the area provides important winter habitat to bald eagles. Additionally, 41 species of mammals and 19 species of reptiles and amphibians (including the Western Toad, a sensitive species) have been documented in the BPCA.

The Friends of BPCA scoping committee identified the bald eagle as a target species for management of wildlife resources at the BPCA.



Photo 2: The BPCA provides important winter habitat for bald eagles.

Rapid development in the vicinity of the BPCA is taking land out of agricultural production, reducing available habitat for wildlife, and funneling wildlife across Warm Springs Avenue into the BPCA. Cold winters force the migration of deer and elk from the Boise River Wildlife Management Unit in the adjacent foothills, and concentrates them in the BPCA, where they find thermal cover and browse. As development continues, more human/wildlife conflict is expected to occur.



2.2.2 Cultural Factors

a. Archaeological and Historical

The BPCA and vicinity have been important to humans throughout documented history. The position of the area at the mouth of the river canyon makes it an important transition zone, as people seasonally followed the river and other trails between the high country and the low-lying river bottomlands. The Oregon Trail, west of the BPCA, followed the old Shoshone trail. The Boise area was known to be an important gathering and trading place for Native Americans, and several landmarks close to the BPCA, Table Rock and Kelly Hot Springs, also played important roles in the spiritual lives of native peoples.



Photo 3: The Barber Lumber Company impounded Barber Pool for a log-holding pond in 1906.

The BPCA also played an important role in the modern history and development of the city of Boise. The Barber Lumber Mill, which operated from 1905 to 1931, supported a company town that included a post office, school, and store. The Intermountain Railroad brought logs to the Barber Lumber Mill, and transported tourists to view the construction at Arrowrock Dam. The Boise Diversion Dam and New York Canal, which border the BPCA study area, have consistently provided irrigation water to farmers in southeastern Idaho since 1904.

The historic importance of the BPCA and its surrounding environs presents interesting educational opportunities, as well as potential for interpretation and outreach regarding the historic and prehistoric value of the area to humans.



b. Ownership

The IFPL is the largest single landowner, (owning 317.9 acres,) within the BPCA study area. Private landowners own over 223 acres, making adjacent landowners important partners in meeting the goals of the Friends of BPCA. Other landowners within the BPCA study area are Ada County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Idaho State Department of Transportation, and the Federal government. Ownership is shown on [Plate 2](#).

c. Adjacent Lands



Photo 4: Residential development in the vicinity of the BPCA makes the habitat in the BPCA especially valuable for wildlife.

Lands north and east of the BPCA are rapidly being converted from open range to urban housing development. Lands on the bluff west of the BPCA have also been converted from agriculture to housing. Development has resulted in less open space available to wildlife, thus making the BPCA an even more valuable commodity in the preservation of habitat, wildlife, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

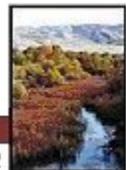
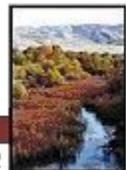
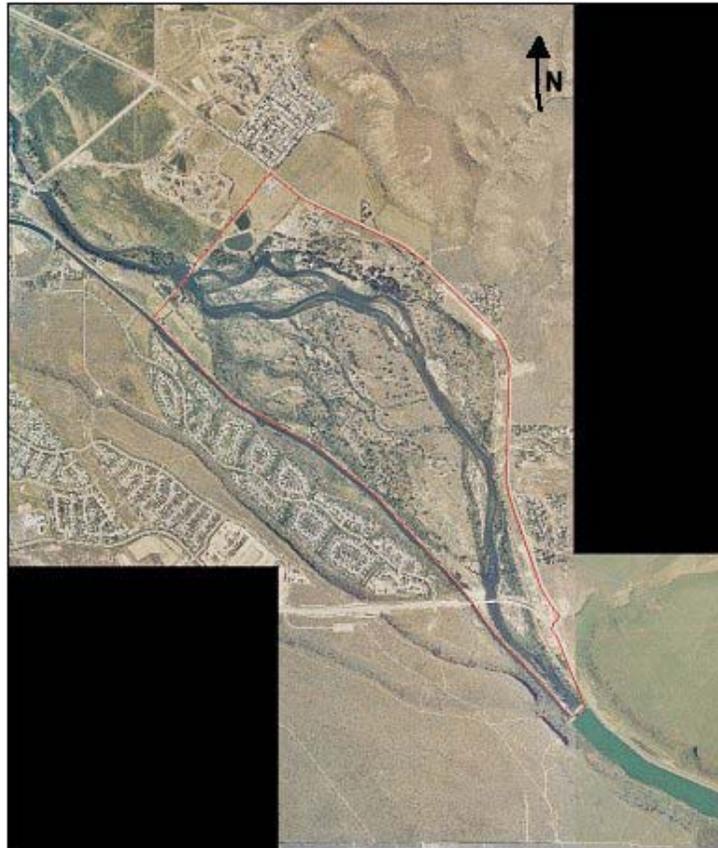




Photo 5: This aerial photo shows the BPCA and vicinity in 1983.

Photo 6: This aerial photo was taken in 2000. Since then, the Harris Ranch development has filled the area downstream of Barber Dam. Future expansion may occur across Warm Springs Avenue, effectively making the BPCA a habitat "island."



d. Fencing

A 6 foot chain link fence was constructed on the hill slope above New York Canal as part of the mitigation for the Surprise Valley housing development. The intent of the fence was to limit disturbance to wildlife from humans and pets associated with the housing development. Private landowners within the BPCA have also constructed fences as a means to separate their properties.

e. Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities accessible to the public include the Boise River Greenbelt trail, which follows the alignment of the Penitentiary canal, and a walking path and seating areas at William Shakespeare Park at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. Also, Boise City has developed an overlook with interpretive signs at the Surprise Valley housing development, which affords excellent views into the BPCA. Any other access into the interior of the BPCA must be authorized by IDPR and IFPL.

2.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The IFPL privately owns the majority of the property at the Barber Pool Conservation Area. This significant portion of private land, and the fact that the study was not entirely Federally funded, made public involvement activities optional for the Friends of BPCA. Discussion among the Friends of BPCA led the group to agree that public involvement is an important part of the planning process, and provides opportunities for education of all interested parties. It was decided that input from the public would provide an exchange of valuable information and ideas.

The Friends of BPCA scoping team led public involvement activities within the Boise community. In August and September 2001, group members gave presentations at meetings of homeowners associations from the Harris Ranch and Surprise Valley communities, and the Southeast Neighborhood Association. The presentations consisted of a 15 minute Microsoft Power Point presentation, followed by a 10 minute question and answer session. The interface with neighbors provided an opportunity for both sides to educate each other about the resources at Barber Pool, and the way that these resources are used and perceived by neighbors and community members.

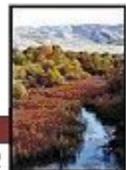




Photo 7: Donna Griffin of the Friends of BPCA fielded questions at the October, 2001 Open House.

On October 4, 2001, the Friends of BPCA hosted a public Open House at the offices of IDPR. The Open House featured information tables on wildlife, quality issues, and the Corps Master Planning Process, as well as a station for participants to peruse the Barber Pool Conservation Area website.

Members of the scoping committee gave a presentation every half hour, followed by a question and answer session facilitated by Donna Griffin of Ada County and Charles McDevitt of IFPL. Maps and comment sheets were collected from attendees with their comments, ideas, and wildlife sightings. Comments and ideas

written on flip charts also were collected. Many of the questions related to access to the pool. Also, a majority of those attending the meetings supported the current use and access policy at BPCA and endorsed preservation and ecological enhancement as the primary goal for the area. Forty-nine guests signed the guest sheet.

In response to the solicitations for information and ideas for the BPCA, the Friends of BPCA received 17 comment sheets, and 6 phone calls. All of these communications expressed a desire to protect and preserve the BPCA as a pristine wildlife area. Several citizens approached members of the Friends of BPCA, wishing to share their historical knowledge of the area; while others offered help in the form of time, labor, or financial support. Overall, the Friends of BPCA surmised strong support from the public for their goals and objectives for the BPCA.

The Corps and Friends of BPCA staffed an information table at Bald eagle Day, on January 26, 2002. The table included displays about resources present at the BPCA, and information about the Master Plan and the planning process used by the Corps and Friends of BPCA. The event drew 600 visitors, many of whom stopped at the Master Plan information table to learn more about the process.

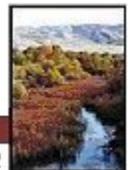


Photo 8: Information stations gave important opportunities for exchange of information during the public outreach process.



Comments were generally supportive of the conservation of the BPCA as wildlife habitat. A brief presentation and question and answer session regarding the Master Plan was included in the program.

The draft BPCA Master Plan was presented at an Open House held at IDPR headquarters on May 14, 2002. The Open House included information tables, presentations, and question and answer sessions. Comment sheets were distributed to guests, and members of the Friends of BPCA were available to answer questions or take comments from participants. Twenty-six people attended the Open House. Again, the overwhelming sentiment expressed by guests was that the BPCA was valuable to them, and ought to be protected for wildlife habitat.



SECTION 3 – PROJECT RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

3.1 GENERAL

Resource objectives are goals specific to the management of an area. They specify the selected option(s) for resource use, management, and design. Resource objectives for the BPCA are presented in this section, and are referenced again in the discussion of management units. The Resource Objectives for the BPCA were developed in a working session with the Corps and the Friends of BPCA, and were based on goals set out by the Friends of BPCA at the start of the planning process. The group developed three primary objectives, with subheadings describing specific objectives. The three main Resource Objectives for the BPCA are:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values
- Human Values
- Wildland/Urban Interface

3.2 PROJECT RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

3.2.1 Resource Objective Number 1 – Enhancement of Ecological Values

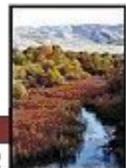
Continue to efficiently operate and maintain the BPCA as wildlife habitat and a setting for scientific research and education.

a. Wildlife Habitat

Continue to preserve, maintain, and enhance existing wildlife habitats in the BPCA for resident and migratory species.

(1) Rationale

The BPCA is known to be an important area for wildlife. Surveys and studies have found over 200 bird species in the BPCA. The area is home to a resident herd of mule deer, and an important winter feeding area for deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Boise River Wildlife Management Area in the foothills to the north. Wintering Bald eagles are a regular sight in the



BPCA from November to February. Development within the southeast area of Boise has made the BPCA one of the few open riparian areas left along the Boise River, and an especially attractive habitat for wildlife. This increased development has elevated the BPCA to a critical habitat status.

(2) Implementation

- Limit public access during nesting season and during the winter, when the BPCA is utilized by wintering bald eagles.
- Encourage further scientific study to learn more about the BPCA, the wildlife within, and the ways that the BPCA is utilized by wildlife.
- Construct and place bird nest boxes and bat houses to attract these species to the BPCA.
- Educate adjacent landowners and developers of the role that the BPCA plays in the ecosystem of the Boise River.

b. Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement

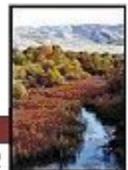
Protect and limit impacts to wetlands and riparian corridors in and around the BPCA.

(1) Rationale

Wetland and riparian areas are valuable and unique ecological features of the BPCA. Their close association with water makes them critical for wildlife diversity, groundwater recharge, and biofiltration. A lowered water table and regulated water regime have limited cottonwood regeneration within the BPCA, and a large portion of this community is at risk from fire, damage from beavers,



Photo 9: Wetland and riparian areas are essential pieces of the BPCA and attrition by old age. The yellow willow community is considered rare by the Idaho Conservation Data Center. This community is present within the BPCA, and should be protected. A portion of the yellow willow community is also at risk due to lowered hydrology.



Natural cottonwood regeneration and protection of wetlands are desirable goals to improve the health and function of the BPCA ecosystem. Old growth cottonwoods provide perching and roosting areas for wintering bald eagles; and provide nest cavities for woodpeckers, owls, and other birds. Wetland and riparian areas attract insects, which are essential to some songbirds. Riparian areas also provide important habitat and cover for waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, and other wildlife.

The low-lying lands of the BPCA are ecologically significant due to their juxtaposition to the mountains to the north and east. Urban development occurring in areas surrounding the BPCA has fragmented this habitat, causing the migration of large ungulates and other animals.

(2) Implementation

- Improve wetland areas by deepening channels to the elevation of existing hydrology
- Encourage scientific study to learn more about the resource as well as the plants and animals within it.
- Protect existing trees from beaver damage
- Limit public access to reduce disturbance to wildlife and the possibility of accidental fire.
- Construct and place bird nest boxes and bat houses to attract these species to the area.
- Work with the BOR and Boise Board of Control to make more water available in the BPCA during critical spring periods of cottonwood regeneration.

c. Wildlife Connectivity

Encourage the creation of wildlife corridors to create connectivity with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise River Wildlife Management Unit, and other state and Federal wild lands.

(1) Rationale

The BPCA is located only 1/4 mile from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Boise River Wildlife Management Unit. This management area may host several thousand mule deer, which migrate from the adjacent mountains. As many as 200 mule deer have been sighted between the southeast border of the IDFG



management unit and the BPCA. The BPCA and adjacent lowlands provide important winter habitat, providing thermal cover and browse for mule deer in the winter. Historically, mule deer migrated as far south as the Snake River. Urban growth in Boise has limited this southward migration, essentially limiting southward migration to the Boise River. In recent years, development in the vicinity of the BPCA has increased dramatically, and this has created a higher frequency of conflict between wildlife and humans. Planned development in the area will subtract habitat available to wintering big game and other wildlife, making the BPCA an even more valuable habitat resource than it is currently. It will be critical to establish corridors to move animals from the higher elevations to the river lowlands.

(2) Implementation

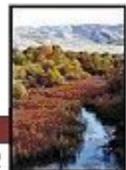
- Work with adjacent landowners, developers, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game to maintain wildlife corridors and appropriate habitat.
- Educate adjacent landowners and developers about the importance of wintering habitat availability to big game, and strategies that they can use to enhance human areas for wildlife.
- Encourage scientific research in the BPCA to learn more about the area and the plants and animals within the study area, and those that migrate to and from the study area.

d. Fish Habitat and Passage

Restore riparian and riverine conditions to enhance fisheries habitat in the Boise River. Promote the expansion of fish access to Barber Pool from adjacent river reaches downstream.

(1) Rationale

The Boise River Wintering Bald Eagle Study identified the enhancement of aquatic habitat as a means of maintaining a wintering bald eagle population on the Boise River (Kaltenecker, 1995). The BPCA was identified in the study as the most important roosting and loafing area on the Boise River, and the enhancement of aquatic habitat within the BPCA will support the growth of the bald eagle population in the future.



Barber Dam and Boise Diversion Dam restrict aquatic species that are associated with a free-flowing stream. Resident fish populations are limited.

(2) Implementation

- Work with local groups to enhance fish habitat within the BPCA.
- Encourage scientific study to learn more about the resource and the organisms within it.

e. Species of Special Concern

Preserve, maintain, and enhance habitat for species that are classified as species of special concern (Endangered, Threatened, or species of concern, as designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.)

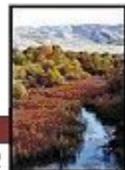
(1) Rationale

The BPCA was identified by the Boise River Bald eagle Task Force as being the “most important habitat for wintering bald eagles in the Boise River corridor” (Kaltenecker, *et al.* 1994)

Additionally, the BPCA is home to one sensitive species of toad (Western Toad, *Bufo boreas*) two sensitive plant species (Shining Flatsedge and Woolly Sedge), and the Yellow Willow community, named sensitive by the Idaho Conservation Data Center. Conditions present on the site make it likely to support other species of concern, such as the threatened Ute Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) and slick spot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*), which is a candidate species.

(2) Implementation

- Encourage scientific study to learn more about the resource and the plants and animals within it.
- Continue to monitor bald eagle populations and their use of the BPCA.
- Continue to monitor plant communities and sites where it is likely that threatened or endangered plant species might be found.
- Restore areas of exotic plants to native species.



f. Control of Exotic/Noxious Weeds

Control Exotic and Noxious weeds within the BPCA through mechanical, chemical, and biological means.



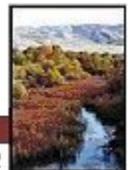
Photo 10: Cheatgrass is a common noxious weed in the BPCA.

(1) Rationale

Exotic and noxious weeds compete with native vegetative species in the landscape. Native species provide a higher habitat value for wildlife. Noxious weeds, especially cheatgrass, increase the risk of an intensely hot fire early in the fire season, which could prove catastrophic to the cottonwood forest within the BPCA.

(2) Implementation

- Employ an integrated weed management approach which uses mapping, inventory of infested areas, treatment, and restoration and revegetation.
- Use chemical controls applied by knowledgeable applicators where needed, and where it is determined that is the best treatment solution
- Use mechanical removal (hand-pulling or discing noxious and exotic weeds) where it is most advantageous
- Use biological controls where applicable
- Implement exotic and noxious weed control in a way that will protect water quality within the area.



3.2.2 Resource Objective Number 2 – Human Values

a. Education and Outreach

Designate the BPCA as an educational area, and enhance educational opportunities, outreach, and educational programs.

(1) Rationale

Identify areas within the BPCA that are suitable for use as an educational setting. These lands must not conflict with wildlife or critical management goals, such as the protection of sensitive species. Development for the purpose of education may vary (e.g. Idaho Shakespeare Festival vs. in-stream sampling), depending on the intent and type of educational experience desired. These lands may be available only seasonally.

(2) Implementation

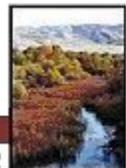
- Develop ecological classes (held at specific times of the year) designed to educate the community about the natural systems at the BPCA and their importance.
- Present cultural and historical classes and seminars related to the BPCA area, which will educate the community about the unique and important historical area at the BPCA. Some target audiences for classes include schools, homeowner associations, historical societies, rotary groups, and natural history interest groups.

b. Interpretive Facilities, Signs, and Programs

Provide identification, interpretive, and display facilities to enhance public understanding of the BPCA and its surrounding environs and systems.

(1) Rationale

Barber Pool is situated in an area with 40 previously documented cultural resources representing various cultural themes and site types. Federal, State and county agencies own land where these and other cultural resources are located. Cultural resources staff



from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office; the Idaho Historical Society; Boise State University and other state and federal agencies could be engaged to help guide in developing an interpretive design for the east end of the Boise River Valley. In the past, the US Bureau of Land Management, Corps, US BOR, US Forest Service, Boise City, and Ada County have made efforts to help interpret heritage sites such as the Oregon Trail, Idaho State Penitentiary and the Foote House (New York Canal engineer's residence). Coordination between such parties and the public could be used to provide a cohesive presentation of the heritage associated with BPCA, which occurs at the interface between the Boise River drainage, the open plain to the south, and the Boise foothills. Both general and specific information could be described concerning past human actions and cultures.

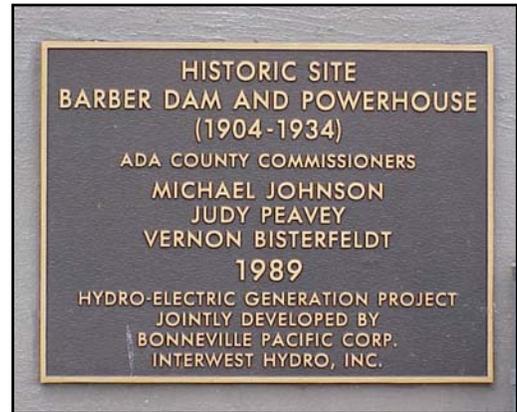
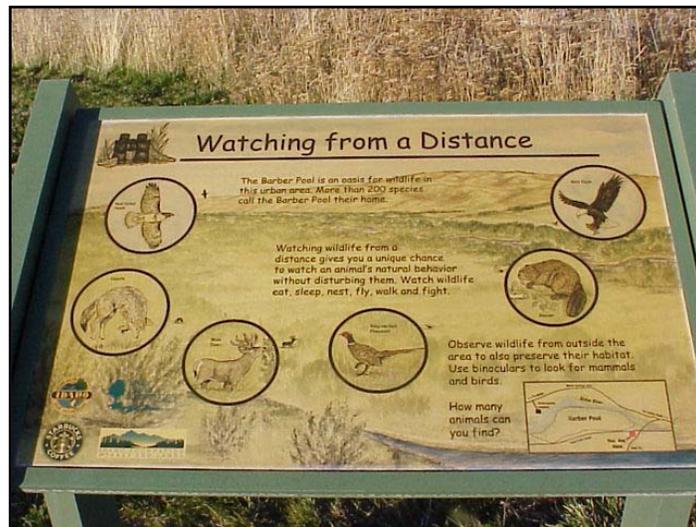


Photo 11: The Barber Dam and Powerhouse is listed on the National Historic Register, and presents an opportunity for interpretation of the heritage of the BPCA..

(2) Implementation

The location of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and IDPR headquarters and IFPL properties off State Highway 21, makes this an attractive area for interpretation facilities for both natural and cultural resources.



Overlook points along the east side of the project area would compliment the others.

Photo 12: An interpretive sign from the overlook at Surprise Valley. Many opportunities for interpretation of the resources at the BPCA exist.



Several opportunities are available for interpretive themes at the BPCA:

- A focus on learning about ecosystem and cultural resource conservation philosophies.
- A focus on specific facets of the local environment and cultural history.

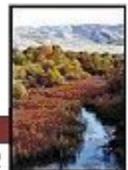
Interpretive themes could be supported using signs that identify specific species, integrating both scientific floral and faunal information with traditional Native American significance/uses.

Interpretive themes involving local resources include:

- Historic Native American commerce
- Native American Fishing
- Sacred Sites
- Native Travel Routes
- Exploration/Fur Trapping
- Timber Industry
- Agriculture
- Railroad
- Ethnic Heritage
- Public Land Management (why the site is managed as it is now)
- Intra-State Commerce
- Transportation
- Settlement (1843-1900)
- Livestock Industry
- Water Diversion and Control
- Plant Types
- Wildlife

c. Historical and cultural resources

Preserve, maintain, and enhance cultural resources (prehistoric and historic) in the BPCA study area.



(1) Rationale

Education of involved parties and knowledge of the past will help to provide a sense of place, and will enhance public appreciation of the BPCA.

(2) Implementation

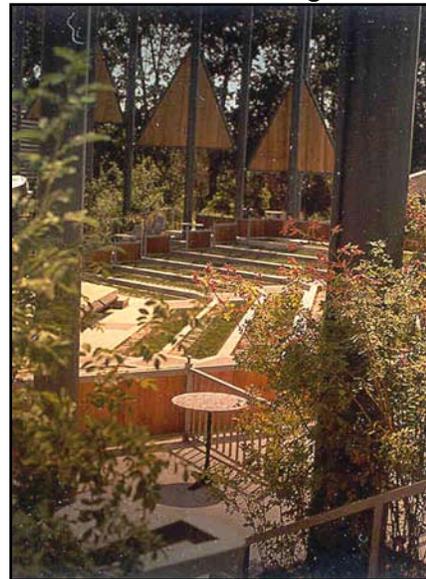
- Inform managing entities of cultural sites or potential sites within the BPCA.
- Undertake a complete cultural resources survey within the boundaries of the BPCA
- Coordinate with the Idaho State Historic Preservation office before undertaking any construction actions that involve ground disturbance.

d. Support of Idaho Shakespeare Festival

Continue to promote the Idaho Shakespeare Festival as a vital part of the BPCA.

(1) Rationale

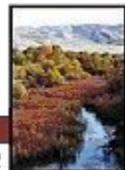
The Idaho Shakespeare Festival provides a natural setting for cultural and educational events that are open to the public. William Shakespeare Park offers recreational paths and viewing areas into the BPCA, and is a popular area for wildlife viewing. The Interpretive Center at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival offers an attractive setting for educational programs and views into the BPCA.



(2) Implementation

- Promote the location of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival as a valuable amenity to theater attendees.

Photo 13: The Idaho Shakespeare Festival offers the public a cultural experience in a natural setting, and is an important interface with the BPCA



- Continue to utilize the interpretive center at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival for cultural and educational programs.

e. Non-intrusive recreation, as compatible with ecological objectives

Visitors to the BPCA currently enjoy the area from controlled access and recreation points. Continue to offer limited access to the BPCA for the purpose of recreation.

(1) Rationale

The Friends of BPCA determined that non-intrusive recreation, that is compatible with ecological objectives, was a goal for the future use of the BPCA.

(2) Implementation

- Identify areas within the BPCA that are suitable for limited access, low-impact recreational use. These lands must not conflict with environmentally sensitive areas, and may be available only seasonally, or under specific conditions identified by landowners and the Friends of BPCA.

3.2.3 Resource Objective 3 – Wild Land/Urban Interface

a. Aesthetic Resources

Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the aesthetic resources of the BPCA.

(1) Rationale

The BPCA is a “natural” appearing landscape. The Boise River and its associated riparian vegetation are the predominant features of the BPCA, giving the majority of the area its natural appearance. The variety of textures, colors, and lines found throughout the BPCA contribute to its high scenic quality. As development moves closer and closer to the BPCA, the natural quality of the landscape becomes more valuable due to its rarity.

The BPCA can be seen from many different areas and viewpoints. The major viewing areas are along Warm Springs Avenue, at the Surprise Valley overlook, from the Boise Greenbelt, and from the Idaho



Shakespeare Festival. Nearby residents have indicated that they value the view into the BPCA and the wildlife viewing opportunities associated with their close proximity.

(2) Implementation

- Work with adjacent developers and homeowners to educate them about aesthetic values. Short seminars at homeowner meetings would give neighbors enough information about color, line, and texture, and the impacts of their actions on the visual landscape, to limit negative visual impacts.
- Work with developers and builders to develop a palette of colors and building materials suitable for use on houses and other structures adjacent to the BPCA.

b. (Selective) Access

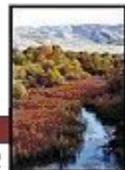
Access to the BPCA shall be restricted to designated areas, unless accompanied by authorized personnel.

(1) Rationale

Limiting access will protect wildlife and vegetation from disturbance and wildfire.

(2) Implementation

- Construct fences at known points of public access into the BPCA. Fencing will help to delineate boundaries and restrict the entrance of feral pets and humans, thus limiting disturbance to wildlife.
- Educate neighbors and the public about the effects of disturbances on wildlife. Emphasize the importance of keeping pets on a leash, and limit pet access to the Boise Greenbelt portion of the BPCA to minimize wildlife disturbance.
- Post signs informing public of boundaries and access policy.
- Institute an education campaign to educate neighbors and community about reasons for access restrictions into BPCA.



c. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Continue to utilize the IDPR headquarters complex, which houses the IFPL, as a source of public information about the BPCA.

(1) Rationale

The IDPR headquarters is a highly visible resource in the community. It is viewed by the public as a gateway to the BPCA, and is a source for information about the BPCA.

(2) Implementation

- Inform the public that much of the BPCA is managed by IDPR, and direct them to IDPR headquarters for information.
- Develop a brochure for public distribution, which refers people to IDPR headquarters for more information about the BPCA.

d. Fire Management

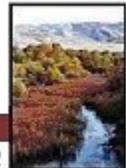
Prevent and suppress wildfires within the BPCA to protect vegetation and wildlife.

(1) Rationale

Fire presents a serious threat to the old-growth cottonwood forest and the drier, upland shrub-steppe vegetation present within the BPCA. The proliferation of cheatgrass makes the BPCA particularly susceptible to a very hot fire, which would severely damage the vegetative communities, and could open the area to invasion by noxious and exotic weeds, compromising habitat quality.

(2) Implementation

- Control public access. Wildfires are often human-caused. Keeping human access to a minimum, and confined to specified areas, will reduce the risk of wildfire. Limit vehicular access to private driveways and designated maintenance roads.



- Educate adjacent landowners within the BPCA study area of the potential destruction of fire within the BPCA. Discuss a cooperative “no burn” policy with private landowners within the BPCA.
- Institute a strict “No Fires” policy within the BPCA, where possible. (This will require cooperation with private landowners and people who recreate on private land.) This will help to reduce the risk of a damaging wildfire within the study area.



SECTION 4 – LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

4.1 GENERAL

This section presents land classifications for the BPCA. These classifications can be considered zones in the sense that they allow for different types of management and development within each land classification category. The land classifications, as well as the resource objectives, provide a conceptual guide for the future management of lands in the BPCA. Land classifications are assigned to parcels of land within the BPCA, called management units.

The land classification map, [Plate 3](#), was generated by grouping together features from the vegetation cover type map, which was generated in the GIS by analysis of the aerial photography provided by COMPASS. The *Developed* classification refers to the “building”, “residential”, “roads” and “pavement” labels from the cover type map. The *Natural character* classification came from the “vegetative” and “aquatic” labels from the cover type map. Land Classification labels were further simplified for the report to four categories: *Natural Character – Public*, *Natural Character – Private*, *Developed – Public*, and *Developed – Private*.

4.2 LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

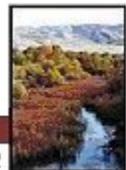
4.2.1 Open Space/Natural Character

a. Natural Character – Public

The Natural Character – Public classification applies to lands that are publicly owned, and which are undeveloped or exhibit natural vegetative characteristics. This land classification covers lands that should be managed for habitat values first, but which may be appropriate for meeting educational or recreational goals in the future.

b. Natural Character – Private

This classification applies to lands that are undeveloped, exhibit natural character and vegetation, but are owned by private individuals within the BPCA study area. Because of their location within the study area, they potentially may impact the character and quality of the rest of the BPCA. It will be appropriate for the Friends of BPCA to work with these landowners to develop cooperative management agreements or conservation easements to ensure compatibility with management goals for the BPCA overall, and to protect the ecological integrity of the BPCA.



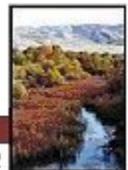
4.2.2 Developed

a. Developed – Public

This land classification applies to areas within the BPCA that have structures, concrete, utilities, or other forms of obvious, man-made development present, or areas that are obvious points of human access to the BPCA study area, and which are owned by public agencies, (e.g. IDPR).

b. Developed – Private

The Developed-Private classification applies to those lands within the BPCA study area that are privately owned and contain homes, concrete, or other structures and hard surfaces, or which have been obviously disturbed.



SECTION 5 – MANAGEMENT UNITS DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT UNITS

The BPCA has been divided into nine individual management units, shown on [Plate 4](#). A management unit is a tract of land designated to achieve, or contribute toward the achievement of, management objectives. An important part of each management unit is the resource objective. Each management unit resource objective communicates a site-specific application of the landscape-wide management objectives previously identified by the Friends of BPCA.

5.2 COMPOSITION OF MANAGEMENT UNITS

The management units, as described in this section, contain the following components: 1) land classification; 2) acreage; 3) unit description; 4) influencing and constraining factors; 5) resource objectives; and 6) development and management concepts. The following paragraphs contain a detailed outline and explanation of the components listed under each management unit.

Each management unit has a specific name assigned to it for ease of identification

a. Land Classification

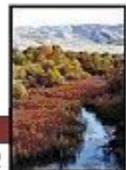
There are four land classifications: Natural Character – public, Natural Character - private, Developed – public, and Developed – private. These classifications are defined in Section 4, and identify the primary management functions of each management unit at the BPCA.

b. Acres

The total number of acres contained in the management unit.

c. Unit Description

A description of the ecological, cultural, and aesthetic features found within the management unit.



(1) Ecological Factors

This section will contain a discussion of each of the factors listed below:

- Landform
- Elevation
- Percent of Slope
- Aspect
- Soils
- Land Cover/Vegetation
- Water Resources
- Wildlife Resources

(2) Cultural Factors

This section will contain a discussion of each of the human-related factors listed below:

- Access
- Land Ownership/Management
- Outgrants
- Adjacent Management Units
- Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA
- Existing Developments
- Visitor Use

d. Aesthetic Factors

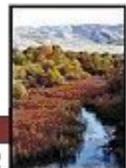
A list of visual, auditory, and olfactory factors within, or perceived from, the management unit.

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

This section is a summary of conditions that may limit or promote the implementation of proposed objectives. It also includes a discussion of potential environmental, social, and administrative tradeoffs that may occur in the future.

f. The Resource Objectives

- Objective
- Rationale



g. Development of Management Concepts

The development and management concepts section contains a detailed description of the uses, developments, and management techniques that should be undertaken to implement the resource objectives. The concepts discussed in this section are not all-inclusive but, rather, are intended to convey an understanding of the type of management strategies and techniques envisioned for implementing the objectives. The ultimate decisions regarding the methods of implementation rest with the land owners and IDPR, the managers of much of the land.



5.2.1 New York Management Unit (see [Plate 5](#))



Photo 14: The New York Management Unit features wetland, shrub-steppe, and palustrine forest vegetation types.

a. **Land Classification:** Natural Character - private

b. **Acres:** 308.4 (43.3% of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description**

(1) **Ecological Factors:**

- **Landform:**

This management unit encompasses lands that lie adjacent to the Boise River, the New York Canal, and other private lands.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of this management unit ranges from a low point of 2779 feet above sea level to a high point of 2819 feet above sea level.

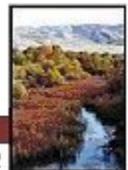
- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (235.39 acres – 80% of the unit)

5-10% (50.83 acres – 17% of the unit)

10-15% (5.54 acres – 2% of the unit)

over 15% slope (1.3 acres - 1% of the unit)



- **Aspect:**

Flat (0.19 acres – 0.07% of unit)
 North (16.15 acres – 5.51% of unit)
 Northeast (22.89 acres – 7.81% of unit)
 East (67.64 acres – 23.08% of unit)
 Southeast (31.92 acres – 10.89% of unit)
 South (20.51 acres – 7.0% of unit)
 Southwest (32.08 acres – 10.95% of unit)
 West (44.44 acres – 15.16% of unit)
 Northwest (57.22 acres – 19.52% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Carwalker Notus Complex (249.65 acres – 81% of unit)
 Tindahay Fine Sandy Loam (11.36 acres – 3.6% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam 3%-8% (0.5 acres – 0.2% of unit)
 Shawmount Sandy Loam (0.04 acres – 0.1% of unit)
 Water/sediment (46.9 acres – 15% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	59.3 acres	19% of unit
Bare Ground	24.0 acres	7.8% of unit
Buildings/Pavement	<1 acre	<1% of unit
Cropland	12.0 acres	3.9% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	17.0 acres	5.5% of unit
Dense Grass	24.3 acres	7.8% of unit
Open Water/Cattails	1.3 acres	<1% of unit
Pasture/Lawn	<1 acre	<1% of unit
Poplar/Willow	22.3 acres	7.2% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	48.6 acres	15.7% of unit
Shadow	18.5 acres	6% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	24.6 acres	8% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	56.1 acres	8% of unit

- **Water Resources**

These lands border the Boise River and its side channels. A wetland created by seepage from New York Canal is also present within this management unit.



- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule deer White-tailed deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.

(2) **Cultural Factors**

- **Access:**

There is no public access to these lands. The New York Canal maintenance road provides access to authorized personnel.

- **Utilities:**

No known utilities exist in this management unit.



- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The IFPL, and several private owners who manage the land for natural character own the land in this management unit.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants in this management unit.

- **Adjacent Management Units:**

Management units adjacent to this unit include:

- Boise River Management Unit
- River Islands Management Unit
- Private Management Unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

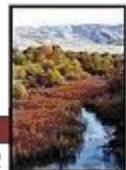
The New York Canal, operated by the Boise Board of Control, forms the west/southwestern border of this management unit. A gravel maintenance road provides access to the canal and the BPCA.

Surprise Valley Housing Development is located on the bluff above this unit. Surprise Valley contains many homes, trails, and an overlook into the BPCA, which is owned by Boise City Parks and Recreation.

The Harris Ranch planned community is located just outside of the BPCA, to the north, northwest, and northeast of this management unit. This area includes high-density housing, community buildings, a commercial center, school, and trails, and parks.

- **Existing Developments:**

There are no existing developments on this land. Some land in the very northwest corner is under cultivation, but this development does not change the natural character.



- **Visitor Use:**

The land in this management unit is not open to the public unless accompanied by authorized personnel. Permission has been granted for authorized academic and scientific study, and management actions carried out by IDPR personnel.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- Natural open space, which is visible from the adjacent uplands
- Wildlife inhabit the area adding to the wild character
- Boise City Parks and Recreation overlooks in the Surprise Valley subdivision offer excellent views into the BPCA
- Housing development on the bluff above this management unit (outside of the study area) detracts from the natural character of the landscape. The scenic impacts of residential development may be mitigated with planting and the use of a selective color palette for buildings and fences.

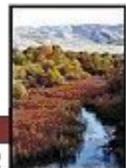
e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Majority of lands owned by a private non-profit organization
- Lands contain the majority of lowland riparian vegetation in the area
- Lands contain the vestiges of yellow willow association that is becoming rare in the area
- Significant lowland open space within the Boise Valley
- Bald eagle winter congregation area, and evidence of night roosts exists
- Big game wintering and early spring calving area
- Rare plants and animals noted on the site
- Area is visible from viewpoints and residential homes and open spaces

f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objectives:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement



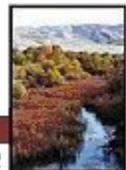
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Species of Special Concern

(2) Rationale:

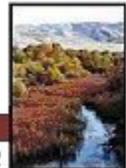
- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an “Idaho State Important Bird Area”.
- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, along with the regeneration of new trees.
- The Idaho Conservation Data Center named the Yellow Willow vegetative community a rare plant community in the State of Idaho. This community is found within the New York Management Unit. Wetland areas that support this community should be managed to protect this rare community and other wetland species.

g Management Concepts

- Control the spread of noxious weeds. Selective control using herbicides in conjunction with mechanical and biological methods will help bring existing infestations under control
- Replace exotic vegetative species with native species. Native grasses and forbs (bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, needle and thread grass, Sandberg’s bluegrass, desert parsley, buckwheat) should be seeded in the area, along with native shrubs (sagebrush and bitterbrush), after exotic species have been removed for one season
- Keep the New York Management Unit closed to the general public. This will help reduce the risk of accidental fire and landscape damage through the uncontrolled development of trails and the possible introduction of noxious weeds.



- Restrict grazing on the New York Management Unit. This will allow the fragile resource to heal from past grazing, especially in the shrub-steppe areas. This will also suppress another avenue for noxious weed infestation. Livestock on private lands may be restricted with fencing that is wildlife friendly, (*i.e.* small barbs or barbless wire; not over 40 inches high; 18 inch spacing between top two wires). Do not use hog wire.
- Protect large trees from beaver damage. Use chicken wire or other metal mesh fencing to protect large cottonwood and willow trees near active wetland areas.
- Encourage colleges, Audubon, Idaho Conservation Data Center *etc.* to conduct scientific studies of plant and animal populations. This will add to the existing knowledge bank for use in making future management decisions.
- Improve wetland and riparian side channels by deepening existing channels, where prudent, to increase wetland extent.
- Restore cheatgrass meadows to native shrub-steppe species, using best available technology. These areas could be treated with herbicides and plowed under and fallowed for one growing season before planting with native species.
- Construct and install bat boxes in and around wetland areas. This will encourage a resident bat population, which feeds upon aquatic insects, including mosquitoes. This will help with mosquito control, and may preclude the need to use pesticides in this area.
- Construct and install bird-nesting boxes in and around wetland areas. Some species to target are owls, woodpeckers, and wood ducks.
- Limit fire fuel loads. Plow the area around New York Canal (which supports a dense stand of cheatgrass), and other areas that support exotic species. Restore these plowed areas to native clump grasses. This will reduce the fuel load and create a barrier to exotic vegetation, including noxious weeds.



5.2.2 River Islands Management Unit (see [Plate 6](#))



Photo 15: The river islands range in size and condition from large, wooded islands, to small gravel bars in the Boise River.

a. **Land Classification:** Natural character - private

b. **Acres:** 28.0 (3.9% of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description**

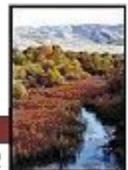
(1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

The islands within the Boise River are generally of lower elevation and offer views that are accessible to many people at ground level (particularly the large island near the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.) Approximately twelve islands are located within this unit. They range in size and condition from gravel bars to a large island that supports riparian vegetation.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of this management unit ranges from a low point of 2779 feet to a high point of 2786 feet above sea level.



- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (27.5 acres – 98% of unit)
5-10% (0.4 acres – 1% of unit)
10-15% (0.02 acres - <1% of unit)
over 15% (0.01 acres – <1% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

Flat (.01 acre – <1% of unit)
North (5.3 acres – 19% of unit)
Northeast (0.4 acres – 1.4% of unit)
East (2.6 acres – 9.5% of unit)
Southeast (0.4 acres – 1.4% of unit)
South (0.3 acres – 1.3% of unit)
Southwest (1.8 acres – 6.6% of unit)
West (3.1 acres – 10.9% of unit)
Northwest (13.9 acres – 49.9% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Carwalker Notus complex (14.82 acres – 53% of unit)
Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (0.24 acres – 0.9% of unit)
Water/sediments (12.9 acres – 46.1% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	5.17 acres	18% of unit
Bare Ground	2.47 acres	9% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	2.35 acres	8% of unit
Dense Grass	2.24 acres	8% of unit
Open Water/Cattails	0.04 acres	<1% of unit
Poplar/Willow	3.02 acres	11% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	3.76 acres	13% of unit
Shadow	1.24 acres	4% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	2.71 acres	10% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	4.96 acres	18% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

The Boise River surrounds the islands.



- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.

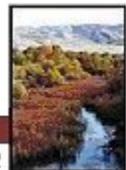
(2) **Cultural Factors**

- **Access:**

Access to the Boise River Islands is gained from the Boise River, and through privately owned and public lands. Islands owned by IFPL are not authorized for public access.

- **Utilities:**

There are no utilities located on any of the islands.



- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The islands are owned by several entities. The island closest to Barber Dam is owned by Ada County and IFPL. The IFPL and a private owner own the large island behind the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. The islands that occur in the large bend in the river are owned by IFPL. The IFPL or private owners own all other islands.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants on any of the islands.

- **Adjacent Management Units :**

The Boise River Management unit is directly adjacent to the River Islands unit.

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

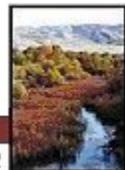
Ada County and the US BOR own lands associated with Barber dam and Boise Diversion Dam, which are both adjacent to this management unit.

- **Existing Developments:**

With the exception of some deliberate tree planting and protection, there has been no known development of any of the islands in this management unit.

- **Visitor Use:**

Evidence of human use (litter, deliberate tree plantings) can be seen on the islands. This property is not authorized for public use, but access is up to the discretion of adjacent landowners, which makes recreational access difficult to regulate. Most of the islands are owned by IFPL, and are not authorized for recreational purposes.



d. Aesthetic Factors

- Natural open space visible from the adjacent uplands
- Wildlife inhabit the area, adding to the wild character
- Presence of litter (indicating human trespass on islands) detracts from natural quality of islands

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Lands owned by a private non-profit organization and private landowner
- Lands contain lowland riparian vegetation
- Lands contain the vestiges of yellow willow association that is becoming rare in the area
- Significant lowland open space within the Boise Valley
- Bald eagle winter congregation area. Evidence of night roosts
- Island configurations are subject to change due to flooding, scouring, or deposition

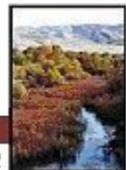
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat

(2) Rationale:

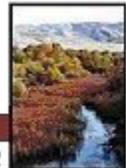
- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, as well as the regeneration of new trees.



- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an “Idaho State Important Bird Area.”

g. Management Concepts

- Close the islands to the general public. Post signs that will indicate to boaters that the islands are privately owned, and being managed for wildlife. This will help to reduce disturbance to wildlife, litter, potential for wild fire, and other human impacts on the islands.
- Educate boaters and fishermen, through presentations to recreational groups, or pamphlets at outdoor recreation shops (such as REI), about the sensitive nature of the islands, their status as private property, and the management goals for the islands.
- Protect large trees from beaver damage. Use chicken wire or other metal mesh fencing to protect large cottonwood and willow trees.
- Control the spread of noxious weeds. Selective control using herbicides, in conjunction with mechanical, and biological methods will help control infestations.
- Encourage colleges, the Audubon Society, Idaho CDC *etc.* to conduct scientific studies of plant and animal populations. This will add to the existing knowledge bank for use in making future management decisions.
- Construct and install bird-nesting boxes for owls, woodpeckers, and wood ducks where applicable on the management unit.



5.2.3. Administration Management Unit (see [Plate 7](#))



Photo 16: The pathways at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival offer public access and excellent views into the BPCA..

a. **Land Classification:** Developed – public
Developed - private

b. **Acres:** 13.0 acres (1.8% of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description:**

(1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

The area is relatively flat, with the exception of the theater grading, and gently undulating walking paths. The majority of the area slopes less than 10%.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of this management unit ranges from a low point of 2786 feet to a high point of 2808 feet above sea level.



- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (8.4 acres – 65% of unit)
 6-10% (2.7 acres – 21% of unit)
 11-15% (0.6 acres – 5% of unit)
 over 15% (1.2 acres – 9% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

Flat: 0
 North: (0.4 acre – 3.2% of unit)
 Northeast (0.5 acre – 4.2% of unit)
 East (1.1 acres – 8.4% of unit)
 Southeast (1 acre – 7.6% of unit)
 South (.9 acre – 7.4% of unit)
 Southwest (3.5 acres – 26.9% of unit)
 West (2.7 acre – 21% of unit)
 Northwest (2.8 acre – 21% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Carwalker Notus Complex (1.3 acres – 10% of unit),
 Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (10.9 acres – 85% of unit)
 Haw Loam (0.7 acres – 5% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	< 1 acre	3.8% of unit
Bare Ground	1.4 acres	10.6% of unit
Building/Pavement	2.7 acres	20.7% of unit
Cement/Pavement	6.8 acres	52.3% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	<1 acre	3.5% of unit
Dense Grass	< 1 acre	0.6% of unit
Open Water/Cattails	< 1 acre	0.3% of unit
Poplar/Willow	< 1 acre	2.9% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	< 1 acre	0.9% of unit
Shadow	< 1 acre	1.6% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	< 1 acre	2.8% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

Two ponds exists on the site. They are used for irrigation and as a catch-basin for storm runoff.



- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

This property is accessed via the driveway and parking lot from Warm Springs Avenue.

- **Utilities:**

Plumbing, electricity, and an irrigation system are present within this management unit.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

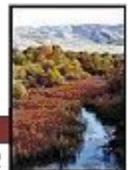
The IDPR, and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival own this property

- **Outgrants :**

There are currently no known outgrants on this management unit.

- **Adjacent Management Units :**

The Northern Buffer Management Unit completely surrounds this management unit.



- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

Harris Ranch owns lands adjacent to the BPCA for expansion of the Harris Ranch planned community.

- **Existing Developments:**

The IDPR complex consists of one 22,896 square foot office building which houses offices, meeting spaces, and the office of the IFPL. Other buildings on the site include a vehicle storage building, carport, Boise Greenbelt restroom facilities, and a pump house. Sidewalks, parking lots, an irrigation system, and landscaping are also present on the site. The Idaho Shakespeare Festival unit includes an outdoor theater, ticket office, interpretive center, walking paths, native wildflower gardens, and a parking lot.

- **Visitor Use:**

The IDPR headquarters building serves as a gateway to the BPCA for the general public. The office serves as an important source of information for those wishing to visit or find out more about the BPCA or Idaho State Parks. Over 50,000 people attend plays at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival each year. Additionally, the facilities are used for educational programs, weddings, and events, such as Bald eagle Day, hosted annually by IDPR. The viewing area and paths at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival offer excellent views into the BPCA from ground level.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- Great location for experiencing cultural events within a natural environment
- Good views into the BPCA from ground level
- Use of wood and stone in constructed environment helps blend the natural with the man-made
- Shady walking paths with view of water create a soothing experience for the user
- A small part of these lands are natural in character but are somewhat degraded



e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- These parcels are relatively small, and they are usually juxtaposed against a man-made structure
- Some lands managed for trails and viewpoints of natural features
- Easy shoreline access
- Near bike trail
- 73% of management unit is covered by buildings or pavement

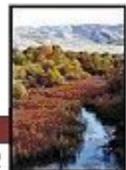
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Human Values – Education and Outreach
- Human Values – Interpretive Facilities, Signs, and Programs
- Wildland/Urban Interface – Selective Access

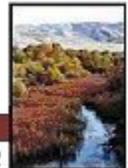
(2) Rationale:

- The IDPR headquarters serves as a gateway to the BPCA. The staff at IDPR, along with the IFPL, helps coordinate educational visits and disseminates information about the BPCA. The Idaho Shakespeare Festival also provides educational and cultural opportunities and facilities that are available to the public.
- Lands and facilities within this management unit offer excellent opportunities for short interpretive trails, signage, and programs about the natural and human history of the BPCA and vicinity, and the ecological system presently at work there.
- Facilities within this management unit offer the public limited access to the BPCA within designated areas.



g. Management Concepts

- On the undeveloped portion, management should be focused on maintaining and improving the native character of the land. The land cover classification is primarily shrub-steppe. Disturbed areas should be cleared of exotic species and planted with native vegetation. This will help control noxious weeds, and provide a natural area that adds to the local natural character and provides opportunities for environmental education
- Manage grounds and adjacent lands in such a way as to blend with the natural interface of the surrounding areas.
- Protect large trees from beaver damage. Use chicken wire or other metal mesh fencing to protect large cottonwood and willow trees near active wetland areas.
- Construct and install bird-nesting boxes in and around wetland areas. Some species to target are owls, woodpeckers, and wood ducks.
- To showcase the BPCA, encourage educational meetings and programs at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival or IDPR headquarters.
- Continue environmental education programs and special events (e.g. Bald Eagle Day)
- Explore the possibility of constructing a short, un-guided interpretive trail or display near the IDPR headquarters.
- Place an information kiosk near the IDPR headquarters or the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, which informs the public of the access policy, natural resource issues, and upcoming public events.



5.2.4 Penitentiary Management Unit (see Plate 8)



Photo 17: An area of dense shrub and grass coverage in the Penitentiary Management Unit.

a. **Land Classification:** Natural character – private
Natural character - public

b. **Acres:** 113.9 acres (15.9 % of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description**

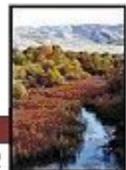
(1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

The majority of this management unit may be characterized as gently sloping. Several areas, along the Penitentiary canal and Boise River greenbelt possess steep slopes (over 10%), which might be considered hazardous.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of this management unit ranges from a low point of 2780' to 2840' above sea level.



- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (27.12 acres – 65% of unit)
 6-10% (7.24 acres – 17% of unit)
 11-15% (3.72 acres – 9% of unit)
 over 15% (3.75 acres – 9% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

Flat: 0
 North (0.25 acre - <1% of unit)
 Northeast (0.19 acre - <1% of unit)
 East (19.28 acres – 45.96% of unit)
 Southeast (2.75 acres – 6.55% of unit)
 South (0.33 acre - <1% of unit)
 Southwest (0.84 acres – 2.03% of unit)
 West (13.09 acres – 31.21% of unit)
 Northwest (5.19 acres – 12.39% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Flofeather Sandy Loam 3%-8% slope (19.5 acres – 17.1% of unit)
 Flofeather Urban Land Complex (6.4 acres – 5.6% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam (8.3 acres – 7.3% of unit)
 Carwalker Notus Complex (37.9 acres – 33.3% of unit)
 Haw Loam 2%-4% slope (9.9 acres – 8.7% of unit)
 Haw Urban Land Complex (6.7 acres – 5.9% of unit)
 Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (8.5 acres – 7.5% of unit)
 Shawmount Sandy Loam (7.8 acres – 6.8% of unit)
 Aridic Argixerolls (4.3 acres – 3.8% of unit)
 Water and Sediments (4.6 acres – 4% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	14.3 acres	12.6% of unit
Bare Ground	15.4 acres	13.6% of unit
Building/Pavement	<1 acre	0.6% of unit
Bitterbrush/Sage	2.3 acres	2.0% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	7.2 acres	6.4% of unit
Dense Grass	5.6 acres	4.9% of unit
Open Water/Cattails	<1 acre	0.9% of unit
Poplar/Willow	15.6 acres	13.8% of unit



Rabbitbrush/Grass	12.3 acres	10.8% of unit
Shadow	12.8 acres	11.3% of unit
Unclassified	1.7 acres	1.5% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	9.8 acres	8.7% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	14.6 acres	12.9% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

The Penitentiary Canal is located within this management unit. The Boise River borders the unit.

- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule deer, White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.



(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

Access to this management unit is authorized only on the Boise River Greenbelt trail. No other access is authorized.

- **Utilities:**

There are no known utilities on this management unit.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

Ada County, the Idaho Department of Transportation, the US Government, and private individuals own lands within this management unit.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants on this management unit. Ada County holds an easement in perpetuity from the Penitentiary Canal company for the lands on which the Boise River Greenbelt is located.

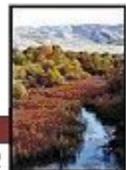
- **Adjacent Management Units :**

Management units adjacent to the Penitentiary Unit include :

Gregerson Management Unit
Infrastructure Management Unit
Private Management Unit
Boise River Management Unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

The Boise River Greenbelt runs along Penitentiary Canal, which is managed by the Boise Board of Control. Three small residential enclaves are located across Warm Springs Avenue. Harris Ranch has purchased open lands east of



this management unit for expansion of the Harris Ranch planned community. The Idaho Fish and Game Boise River Wildlife Management Unit is located in the foothills across Warm Springs Avenue, and many deer and elk access the BPCA via this management unit.

- **Existing Developments:**

The Boise River Greenbelt runs through this management unit, as does Penitentiary Canal.

- **Visitor Use:**

Most visitors use the Boise River Greenbelt to access this area. Some unauthorized access to this management unit has occurred via private lands or the greenbelt.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- Views of a landscape of natural character from adjacent areas
- Wildlife inhabit the area, adding to the viewing experience and scenic quality
- Intermittent views of the Boise River from the Boise Greenbelt create intriguing viewing experiences
- Cooling effect of Penitentiary Canal

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Lands owned by local government and private landowners
- Lands contain lowland riparian vegetation
- Lands contain the vestiges of yellow willow association that is becoming rare in the area
- Significant lowland open space within the Boise Valley
- Bald eagle winter congregation area
- Big game wintering area
- Adjacent to bike trail
- (Unauthorized) public access point into Barber Pool lowlands
- No public access to the river



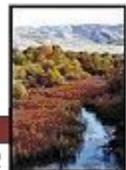
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat
- Enhancement of Ecological Values - Control of Exotic/Noxious weeds

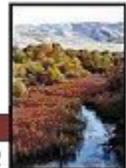
(2) Rationale

- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, as well as the regeneration of new trees.
- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an “Idaho State Important Bird Area”.
- Replacing exotic/noxious vegetative species will benefit wildlife and reduce the risk of wildfire. The Penitentiary Management Unit is a common point of access for deer and elk migrating from the foothills. The location of the Boise River Greenbelt on this management unit creates greater opportunity for human access and incidence of wildfire. Reducing the fuel load by removing highly flammable species (e.g. cheatgrass) will benefit the BPCA.



g. Management Concepts

- Limit public access to these lands. Strict management of access will help reduce the risk of accidental fire, uncontrolled development of trails, and the introduction of noxious weeds.
- Plant additional riparian trees and shrubs where hydrology will support these species. Upland areas should be restored to native shrub-steppe vegetation where possible.
- Improve wetland areas by deepening side channels to the elevation of existing hydrology
- Protect large trees from beaver damage. Use chicken wire or other metal mesh to protect large cottonwood and willow trees.
- Control the spread of noxious weeds. Use herbicides in conjunction with biological and mechanical methods to keep the existing infestations under control.
- Encourage colleges, Audubon, Idaho Conservation Data Center etc. to conduct scientific study of plant and animal populations. This will add to the existing knowledge bank with which to make future management decisions.
- Construct and install bird-nesting boxes and bat boxes. Some bird species to target are owls, woodpeckers, and wood ducks.
- Develop a small nature trail that could be used for interpretation and environmental education. The area closest to the Infrastructure Management Unit would be an appropriate place for a short trail, or interpretive signage about the BPCA.
- Limit fuel loads, especially in the area around the greenbelt and Penitentiary Canal, which is heavily vegetated with grasses, and receives the most human visitation. Plow the area around the Penitentiary canal and other areas that support exotic species. Restore these plowed areas to native clump grasses. This will reduce the fuel load and create a barrier to exotic vegetation and noxious weeds.



5.2.5. Gregerson Management Unit (see [plate 9](#))



Photo 18: The Gregerson Management Unit is partially developed, but still possesses natural character.

a. **Land Classification:** Natural character - private

b. **Acres:** 34.7 acres (4.8% of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description**

(1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

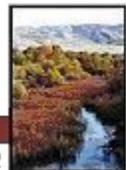
This management unit is generally softly sloping, but there are some areas with very steep slopes.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of the Gregerson management unit ranges from a low point of 2779' to a high point of 2846' above sea level.

- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (23.4 acres – 67.4% of unit)
6-10% (6.2 acres – 18% of unit)
11-15% (0.9 acres – 2.5% of unit)
over 15% (4.2 acres – 12.1% of unit)



- **Aspect:**

Flat: (0.02 acre - <1% of unit)
 North (4.9 acres – 14.3% of unit)
 Northeast (1.1 acre – 3.2% of unit)
 East (0.8 acres – 2.3% of unit)
 Southeast (0.2 acre – 0.5% of unit)
 South (0.9 acre – 2.6% of unit)
 Southwest (8.2 acres – 23.5% of unit)
 West (14.1 acres – 40.5% of unit)
 Northwest (4.5 acres – 12.9% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Flofeather Sandy Loam 3% - 8% slope (13.6 acres – 39.3% of unit)
 Carwalker Notus Complex (21.1 acres – 60.7% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	6.2 acres	17.8% of unit
Bare Ground	6.2 acres	17.9% of unit
Building/Pavement	< 1 acre	0.5% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	5.5 acres	15.9% of unit
Dense Grass	< 1 acre	0.9% of unit
Pasture/Lawn	< 1 acre	0.2 % of unit
Poplar/Willow	4.1 acres	11.7% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	1.2 acres	3.6 % of unit
Shadow	7.8 acres	22.4% of unit
Unclassified	<1 acre	0.3% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	2.3 acres	6.6% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	<1 acre	2.2% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

This management unit is bordered by the Boise River at two different points, and the Penitentiary Canal runs through this management unit .



- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail

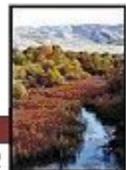
(2) **Cultural Factors**

- **Access:**

This unit is accessed by private drive from Warm Springs Avenue.

- **Utilities:**

Electricity, plumbing, and other utilities associated with a residential dwelling are located on this management unit.



- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The lands in this management unit are privately-owned.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants on this property.

- **Adjacent Management Units:**

Management units adjacent to the Gregerson management unit include:

- Northern Buffer management unit
- Penitentiary management unit
- Private management unit
- Boise River management unit
- River Islands management unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

Lands across Warm Springs Avenue from this management unit are owned by Harris Ranch, for expansion of the Harris Ranch planned community.

- **Existing Developments:**

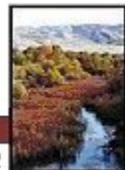
Gregerson's Wildlife Park and The Marie Dorian Memorial Indian Museum and Wildlife Refuge operate on much of this property. Structures associated with these endeavors exist on the property.

- **Visitor Use:**

Access to the wildlife park and museum is by appointment.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- Views from adjacent areas to a landscape of natural character
- Wildlife inhabit the area, adding to the viewing experience and scenic quality
- Cooling effect of Penitentiary Canal



e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Lands are privately owned
- Lands are relatively small in size, but if managed in conjunction with adjacent lands with natural character, can add significant habitat value to the BPCA.

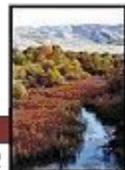
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Connectivity

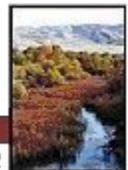
(2) Rationale:

- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an “Idaho State Important Bird Area”.
- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, as well as the regeneration of new trees.
- This management unit is the primary access point into the BPCA for deer and elk (based on IDFG road kill data). It will be important to maintain this corridor and enhance the vegetative community to support the wildlife population using this area.



g. Management Concepts

- Work cooperatively with the private landowner to manage for the habitat values developed by the Friends of BPCA
- Plant additional riparian trees and shrubs where hydrology will support these species. Upland areas should be restored to native shrub-steppe vegetation where possible.
- Encourage special programs for habitat conservation.
- Encourage the landowner to become a part of the Friends of BPCA, and thus educated about the importance of his land in the natural community
- If private owner is willing, assist with eradication of noxious weeds



5.2.6 Northern Buffer Management Unit (see Plate 10)



Photo 19: Deer are frequently seen in the alfalfa field in the Northern Buffer Management Unit.

a. **Land Classification:** Natural character – private
Natural character - public

b. **Acres:** 58.1 acres (8.2% of BPCA study area)

c. **Unit Description:**

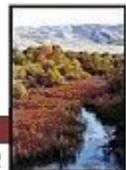
(1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

This management unit is generally flat to gently sloping.

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of this unit ranges from a low of 2775 feet to a high elevation of 2817 feet above sea level.



- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (42.6 acres – 74% of unit)
 6-10% (10.3 acres – 18% of unit)
 11 – 15% (2.6 acres – 4% of unit)
 over 15% (2.5 acres – 4% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

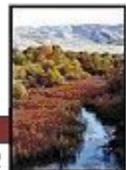
Flat: (56.8 acres - 98% of unit)
 North (2.2 acres – 1% of unit)
 Northeast (<1 acre – <1% of unit)
 East (0 acres – 0% of unit)
 Southeast (0 acres – 0% of unit)
 South (0 acres – 0% of unit)
 Southwest (0 acres – 0% of unit)
 West (0 acres – 0% of unit)
 Northwest (<1 acre – <1% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (20 acres – 34% of unit)
 Haw Loam (7 acres – 13% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam 3% - 8% (2 acres – 3% of unit)
 Carwalker Notus Complex (28 acres – 50% of unit)
 Water and Sediment (acres – % of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	9.4 acres	16% of unit
Bare Ground	6.9 acres	12% of unit
Bare Ground/Pavement	3.3 acres	6% of unit
Building/Pavement	<1 acre	1% of unit
Cottonwood/Willow	6.4 acres	11% of unit
Deep Water	4.8 acres	8% of unit
Grass/Shrub	6.2 acres	11% of unit
Dense Grass/Shrub	<1 acre	1% of unit
Dense Shrub	4.8 acres	8% of unit
Shallow Water	1.6 acres	3% of unit
Shrub/Grass	6.4 acres	11% of unit



Shadow/Heavy Shrub	<1 acre	2% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	2.7 acres	5% of unit
Willow/Cottonwood	< 1 acre	1% of unit
Unclassified	1.8 acres	3% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

Two sewage treatment ponds associated with the Golden Dawn Mobile Home Park are located on private land within this unit. The Boise River borders this unit, also.

- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

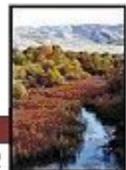
Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.



(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

Access to this management unit is permitted from the Boise River Greenbelt, which runs along Warm Springs Avenue.

- **Utilities:**

Two sewage treatment ponds for the Golden Dawn Mobile Home Park are located at the north end of this management unit.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The IFPL, Ada County, IDPR, and several private owners hold land within the Northern Buffer Management Unit.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants that exist in this management unit.

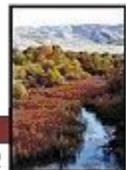
- **Adjacent Management Units :**

Management units adjacent to the Northern Buffer unit include :

Administration Management Unit
Private Management Unit
Gregerson Management Unit
Boise River Management Unit
Boise River Islands Management Unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

Lands owned by the Harris Family or associated with the Harris Ranch planned community border this management unit. Ada County owns lands associated with Barber Dam, and other privately owned lands border this management unit.



- **Existing Developments:**

Little development exists on these lands. Some ground disturbance related to past construction activities is present, and some of the land around the school is farmed.

- **Visitor Use:**

Visitation occurs at the Boise River Greenbelt where it runs along Warm Springs Avenue. No other public visitation is authorized.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- These lands have varying natural characteristics. Most of the lands have been disturbed at some point in the past, but have been restored to a certain extent. They still add to the natural character within Barber Pool.

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Majority of lands are privately owned and support variable land use activities
- Deer commonly congregate in the field along Warm Springs Avenue

f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat

(2) Rationale:

- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, as well as the regeneration of new trees.



- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an Idaho State Important Bird Area.

g. Management Concepts

- Work cooperatively with the private landowners to manage for the habitat values developed by the Friends of BPCA
- Plant additional riparian trees and shrubs where hydrology will support these species.
- Improve wetland areas by deepening channels to the elevation of existing hydrology
- Construct and install bat boxes and bird-nesting boxes for owls, woodpeckers, and wood ducks.
- Work with private landowners outside of Friends of BPCA to develop strategies to control the spread of noxious weeds.



5.2.7 Private Lands Management Unit (see [plate 11](#))



Photo 20: Lands within the Private Management Unit have been developed primarily for residential use.

- a. **Land Classification:** Developed - private
- b. **Acres:** 47.4 acres (6.6% of the BPCA study area)
- c. **Unit Description:**
 - (1) **Ecological Factors**
 - **Landform:**

This management unit is made up of different, unconnected parcels. These lands are generally flat to gently sloping.
 - **Elevation:**

The elevation of this management unit ranges from a low of 2779 feet to a high point of 2845 feet above sea level.



- **Percent of Slope:**

0-5% (acres – % of unit)
 6-10% (acres –% of unit)
 11-15% (acres –% of unit)
 over 15% (acre –% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

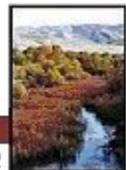
Flat: 0
 North: (2 acres – 3.4% of unit)
 Northeast (3.2 acres – 5.4% of unit)
 East (12 acres – 20.5% of unit)
 Southeast (6 acres – 10.2% of unit)
 South (1.8 acres – 3.1% of unit)
 Southwest (15 acres – 25.5% of unit)
 West (6.7 acres – 11.4% of unit)
 Northwest (12.1 acres – 20.5% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (2.3 acres – 4.8% of unit)
 Haw Loam (<1 acre – <1% of unit)
 Haw Urban Land Complex (3.7 acres – 7.8% of unit)
 Haw Loam 2% - 4% slope (1.9 acres – 4.2% of unit)
 Carwalker Notus Complex (26.3 acres – 55.6% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam (5.7 acres –12.1% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam 3% - 8% slope (3.8 acres – 8.1% of unit)
 Tindahy Fine Sandy Loam (3.2 acres – 6.8% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	3.6 acres	8% of unit
Bare Ground	11.3 acres	24% of unit
Building/Pavement	4.1 acres	9% of unit
Cement/Pavement	6.5 acres	13% of unit
Bitterbrush/Sage	<1 acre	<1% of unit
Cropland	1.8 acres	4% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	2.2 acres	5% of unit
Dense Grass	<1 acre	2% of unit
Open Water/Cattails	<1 acre	<1% of unit
Pasture/Lawn	3.9 acres	8% of unit



Poplar/Willow	2.8 acres	6% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	1.8 acres	4% of unit
Shadow	2.3 acres	5% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	<1 acre	2% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	4.2 acres	4% of unit
Unclassified	2.5 acres	5% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

Private lands within the BPCA are located adjacent to Penitentiary Canal, New York Canal, and the Boise River.

- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

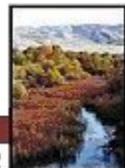
Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.



(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

Most of the parcels within this management unit are accessible by roads or private driveways. Several are accessed via the New York Canal maintenance road.

- **Utilities:**

Utilities associated with homes, and a school, are presumed to be present at each of the parcels within this management unit. A water pumping plant is located below the Idaho State Highway 21 right-of-way.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The lands represented in this management unit are those developed as home sites or for a school. These sites are owned by individuals.

One parcel, located just below the New York Canal, is also owned by an individual. The site includes two homes, outbuildings, and agricultural equipment.

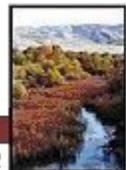
- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants within this management unit.

- **Adjacent Management Units :**

Management units adjacent to this unit include:

New York Management Unit
Penitentiary Management Unit
Boise River Management Unit
Gregerson Management Unit
Northern Buffer Management Unit



- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

This management unit is made up of small and scattered individual parcels. Lands adjacent to this management unit include those owned by the Harris family and incorporated into the Harris Ranch planned community, lands associated with the operation of Barber Dam, and New York Canal. One parcel abuts the Idaho State Highway 21 Bridge right-of-way.

- **Existing Developments:**

Existing developments include homesites and a school. Development within this unit varies, but is primarily limited to residential development that does not include large tracts of manicured landscaping.

A water pumping plant associated with Micron is located below the Highway 21 bridge on the Boise River.

- **Visitor Use:**

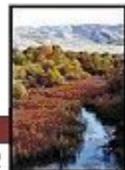
Visitation to the parcels within this unit is at the discretion of the individual landowners.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- Landowners adjacent to the BPCA enjoy views of natural appearing landscapes, and wildlife

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Lands are privately owned
- Land development into small parcels fragments the natural landscape and habitat of many wildlife species.
- Lands are relatively small in size, but if managed in conjunction with adjacent lands with natural character, can add significant habitat value.



f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Human Values – Education and Outreach
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat
- Wildland/Urban Interface – Aesthetic Resources

(2) Rationale:

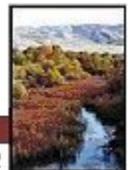
- Education is one way to make people aware of the environment in which they live, and how their actions may effect this environment. Dialogue with the neighbors will also provide more open communication regarding ongoing management of IFPL and public lands.
- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an Idaho State Important Bird Area.
- The BPCA is a “natural” appearing landscape, which hosts a variety of wildlife that may be viewed from properties located within the BPCA. The open space and viewing opportunities add value to private properties. Care should be taken to maintain a natural appearance and avoid visual or auditory intrusion on the natural character of the BPCA.

g. Management Concepts

- Meet with landowners and residents to discuss the ecology of the BPCA and the importance of the habitat there
- Work with residents within the BPCA to help control the access of domestic pets to prevent harassment or death of wildlife.
- Work cooperatively with residents and private landowners to manage for the habitat values developed by the Friends of BPCA, and the benefit of native landscaping techniques



- Cooperate with willing landowners to assist in the control of noxious weeds and exotic species
- Work with landowners within the BPCA to develop a palette of color and building materials for structures such as homes, sheds, fences, or other developments on private property that will support the natural character of the BPCA
- Acquire parcels from willing sellers as they become available



5.2.8 Infrastructure (see [plate 12](#))



Photo 21: The Infrastructure Management Unit includes the lands immediately surrounding the Idaho State Highway 21 bridge.

- a. **Land Classification:** Developed - public
- b. **Acres:** 11.9 acres (1.6% of BPCA study area)
- c. **Unit Description:**

- (1) **Ecological Factors**

- **Landform:**

This management unit contains very steep slopes, some associated with construction of the Idaho State Highway 21 bridge.



- **Elevation:**

The elevation range on this management unit goes from a low elevation of 2784 feet to a high elevation of 2853 feet above sea level.

- **Percent of Slope:**

0 - 5% (3.2 acres – 27% of unit)
 6 – 10% (1.7 acres – 15% of unit)
 11 – 15% (1.3 acres - 10% of unit)
 over 15% (5.8 acres – 48% of unit)

- **Aspect:**

Flat: 0
 North: (3 acres – 25.3% of unit)
 Northeast: (0.6 acre – 5.3% of unit)
 East: (1.8 acre – 15% of unit)
 Southeast (1.6 acre – 12.9% of unit)
 South (0.3 acre – 2.2% of unit)
 Southwest (0.9 acres – 7.9% of unit)
 West (1.7 acres – 13.8% of unit)
 Northwest (2.1 acres – 17.6% of unit)

- **Soils:**

Carwalker Notus Complex (0.2 acres – 1.5% of unit)
 Flofeather Sandy Loam (5.1 acres – 42.8% of unit)
 Shawmount Sandy Loam (2.9 acres – 24.8% of unit)
 Moulton Fine Sandy Loam (1.8 acres – 15.1% of unit)
 Haw Urban Land Complex (0.01 acre – >1% of unit)
 Aridic Argixerolls (0.1 acre – 1.2% of unit)
 Water and Sediments (1.7 acres – 14.6% of unit)

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Annual Grass	1.13 acres	18% of unit
Bare Ground	0.54 acres	9% of unit
Building/Pavement	0.03 acres	1% of unit
Cement/Pavement	0.04 acres	1% of unit
Dense Annual Grass	0.51 acres	8% of unit
Dense Grass	0.49 acres	8% of unit



Open Water/Cattails	0.01 acres	<1% of unit
Poplar/Willow	0.66 acres	11% of unit
Rabbitbrush/Grass	0.82 acres	13% of unit
Shadow	0.27 acres	<1% of unit
Willow/Dense Grass	0.59 acres	10% of unit
Willow/Poplar Scrub	1.08 acres	18% of unit

- **Water Resources:**

The Boise River runs through this management unit.

- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.

Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.



(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

Lands within this management unit are accessible by both paved and gravel roads.

- **Utilities:**

Lights associated with the Idaho Highway 21 bridge are located within this management unit.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The State Highway 21 bridge is owned by the Idaho Department of Transportation.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants associated with this management unit.

- **Adjacent Management Units :**

Adjacent management units include :

Penitentiary Management Unit
New York Management Unit
Private Management Unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

Lands adjacent to a portion of this management unit are held by the US BOR for management of Boise Diversion Dam. Another portion of this unit is situated near the Idaho Department of Transportation right-of-way for the Idaho State Highway 21 bridge.

- **Existing Developments:**

The Idaho State Highway 21 Bridge is the primary development on this management unit. It is a large concrete bridge that spans the Boise River.



- **Visitor Use:**

The Highway 21 bridge is traveled daily by hundreds of residents and visitors to southeast Boise.

d. Aesthetic Factors

- These lands have varying natural characteristics. Most of the lands have been disturbed at some point in the past, and have been restored to varying extents.
- The State Highway 21 bridge obstructs views into the river canyon, fragmenting the viewshed in the upstream reaches of the BPCA

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Idaho Department of Transportation has a management plan for the land they own in this management unit. The plan calls for restoration and preservation of the palustrine forest.

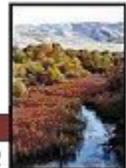
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wetland and Riparian Protection and Enhancement
- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Wildlife Habitat
- Human Values – Interpretive Facilities, Signs, and Programs

(2) Rationale:

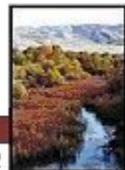
- Riparian and wetland areas support a diversity of wildlife species, and cottonwood forests provide nest trees for cavity-nesting birds. The BPCA supports one of the last intact cottonwood forests on the urbanized Boise River. Management should support the preservation of the current population, and the regeneration of new trees.



- The BPCA supports diverse plant and animal species, including Federal species of concern. The BPCA also provides critical winter habitat for bald eagles, and deer and elk that migrate from the Idaho Fish and Game Foothills Management Unit. The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy have named the BPCA an “Idaho State Important Bird Area”.
- Provide a cohesive presentation of the heritage associated with BPCA, which occurs at the interface between the Boise River drainage, the open plain to the south and Boise foothills. Both general and specific information could be described concerning past human actions and cultures, and the natural history of the area.

g. Management Concepts

- Collaborate with the Idaho Department of Transportation (the landowner) to restore native species to the site.
- Enlist the assistance of Idaho Department of Transportation in controlling public access and dumping into the BPCA from the bridge right of way.
- Develop an overlook with parking near the intersection of Warm Springs Avenue and Idaho State Highway 21. Developing the site would give people an opportunity to view and learn about the area, block vehicle traffic into the site, and define an area where the public is permitted, and where they are not permitted. Explore the possibility of a short trail associated with the overlook and interpretive displays



5.2.9 Boise River Management Unit (see Plate 13)



Photo 22: The Boise River is the heart of the BPCA.

a. Land Classification: Natural Character – Public

(The Boise Riverbed is owned by the state of Idaho. However, many parcels along the river are privately owned, and are not available for public use.)

b. Acres: 97.1 acres (13.6% of BPCA study area)

c. Unit Description:

(1) Ecological Factors

- **Landform:**

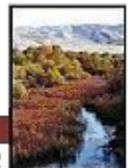
Not applicable

- **Elevation:**

The elevation of the Boise River ranges from 2760 to 2787 feet above sea level, as it flows through the BPCA.

- **Percent of Slope:**

Not applicable



- **Aspect:**

Flat: 0
North: 0
Northeast: 0
East: 0
Southeast: 0
South: 0
Southwest: 97.1 acres – 100% of unit
West: 0
Northwest: 0

- **Soils:**

Riverine soils, not documented by NRCS.

- **Land Cover/Vegetation:**

Not applicable

- **Water Resources:**

The Boise River is the primary water resource at the BPCA.

- **Wildlife Resources:**

Fish- Rainbow Trout, Whitefish

Big Game- Mule. White-tailed Deer, Rocky Mountain elk.

Upland Game Birds- Mourning Dove, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant.

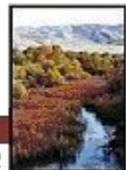
Waterfowl- Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Teal, Merganser, Bufflehead.

Songbirds-Yellow warbler, Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped chickadee, Red-breasted nuthatch, Willow flycatcher.

Woodpeckers- Downy, Hairy, Lewis', Northern Flicker

Raptors- Bald eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, Long-eared, and Saw-whet owls.

Shorebirds-Great-blue Heron, Western Sandpiper, Kildeer, California and Ring-billed gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant.



Small Mammals- Meadow vole, Deer Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Muskrat.

Medium-sized Mammals- Coyote, Raccoon, Beaver, Bobcat, Red Fox.

Amphibians- Bullfrog, Pacific Tree Frog, Western Toad.

Reptiles- Pacific Rattlesnake, Western Racer, Pacific Gopher Snake, Common Garter Snake.

Butterflies- Monarch, Viceroy, Painted Lady, Wood Nymph, Cabbage White, Swallowtail.

(2) Cultural Factors

- **Access:**

The Boise River may be accessed via private land on the periphery of the BPCA study area, or from public land below Boise Diversion Dam. There is also a stairway that affords river access behind Barber Dam.

- **Utilities:**

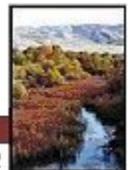
There are two dams: Diversion Dam and Barber Dam, and a water pumping station on the Boise River within the BPCA study area. Power generating facilities are present at both dams, although only the Barber Dam powerhouse is currently generating electricity.

- **Land Ownership/Management:**

The Boise Riverbed is owned by the state of Idaho. However, many parcels along the river are privately owned and are not available for public use.

- **Outgrants :**

There are no known outgrants on this management unit.



- **Adjacent Management Units :**

Adjacent management units include :

- River Islands Management Unit
- Northern Buffer Management Unit
- New York Management Unit
- Gregerson Management Unit
- Private Management Unit
- Penitentiary Management Unit
- Infrastructure Management Unit

- **Adjacent Ownership/Management Outside of BPCA:**

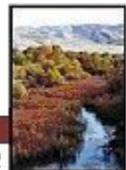
The water of the Boise River is controlled by dams and diversion structures owned by several entities: The US Army Corps of Engineers (Lucky Peak Dam), US Bureau of Reclamation (Boise Diversion Dam), Boise Board of Control (irrigation structures)

- **Existing Developments:**

As discussed above, two dams and a water pumping station are present on the Boise River within the BPCA. Lucky Peak Dam, upstream of Boise Diversion Dam, is a major element on the Boise River. The Corps constructed Lucky Peak Dam in 1955 to control flooding in the city of Boise. Lucky Peak Dam, in conjunction with the Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch dams (owned by US Bureau of Reclamation), regulates water on the Boise River.

- **Visitor Use:**

Many people enjoy fishing or floating the Boise River. However, due to the sensitive nature of the lands surrounding the Boise River through the BPCA, exiting from water craft to access shoreline areas is not authorized on lands owned by IFPL.



d. Aesthetic Factors

- The Boise River bestows high scenic quality on the BPCA.
- The hydrology of the river feeds riparian vegetation, creating a landscape of natural character

e. Influencing and Constraining Factors

- Stream reach constrained by dams at either end. River flows are controlled by upstream dam discharges.
- Barber Pool is isolated from adjacent stream reaches by dams. Little interchange of fish and other aquatic species with other parts of the river occurs.

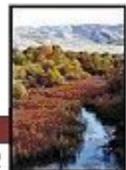
f. Resource Objectives

(1) Objective:

- Enhancement of Ecological Values – Fish Habitat and Passage
- Human Values – Non-intrusive recreation, as compatible with ecological objectives

(2) Rationale:

- Dams on the Boise River restrict certain aquatic species that are tied to free flowing streams, and resident fish populations are limited. Enhancement of the aquatic ecosystem for fish habitat will support the wintering bald eagle population at the BPCA. Any effort to tie the reach of the Boise River that runs through the BPCA to upstream and downstream reaches should be encouraged.
- Limit public access to the reach of the river that runs through the BPCA. This will decrease disturbance to wildlife, limit litter, bank erosion, and other human impacts, and decrease the risk for wildfire. Seasonal closure may be appropriate.



g. Management Concepts

- Work with local groups and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to develop fish habitat within the BPCA.
- Encourage colleges, Audubon, CDC etc. to conduct scientific study of plant and animal populations. This will add to the existing knowledge bank with which to make future management decisions.
- Limit public access to the reach of the river that runs through the BPCA. Allow fishing only at designated spots or by float tube. Allow only fly-fishing within the BPCA. Do not allow fishing from islands.
- Permit canoeing with the understanding that boaters may not disembark while boating. It may be appropriate to develop a put-in sight near State Department of Transportation lands, with an information kiosk, which explains the rules for boating on the reach, and the reasons. Explanation of the ecological reason for these strict management principles may be appropriate.
- Institute winter closures during bald eagle wintering-November 1 through March 15.
- Close the reach to the public during the spring nesting season



SECTION 6 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS

6.1 GENERAL

This section addresses physical, biological, social, and institutional elements that could impede the accomplishment of the goals for the BPCA set out by the Friends of BPCA. It also recommends potential solutions to these problems.

6.2 PERCEPTION OF BARBER POOL

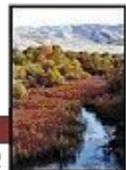
Feedback from the public open houses held in support of the Master Plan indicated that many people in the Boise Valley value the BPCA as a wildlife habitat area and a wildlife viewing area. The BPCA is also considered a valuable resource for scientific study by the academic, scientific, and environmental communities. However, some confusion seems to exist as to the ownership and access policies at the BPCA. Because the BPCA is a large open space along the Boise River, some believe that it is public land, which is available for recreation. This is not the case. It would be in the best interests of the Friends of BPCA to engage the community, and take opportunities to educate the public about the resources at the BPCA, areas that are available for visitation, and the reasons for closure of other areas. A public display or information table that is set up at fairs, conferences, and other public events might be helpful in educating the public about the BPCA, its value to the community, the public access policy, and the reasons for restricted access.

6.3 ADJACENT LAND USES

The BPCA has become almost entirely surrounded by urban housing developments. The upstream reach and the lowlands across Warm Springs Avenue and adjacent to the foothills still remain open. However, rapid development in recent years at Surprise Valley and Harris Ranch has changed the natural character of southeast Boise. Further expansion of the Harris Ranch development is planned for the area against the foothills, which will make the BPCA an “island” of wildlife habitat. It will be critical that the Friends of BPCA work with developers, the city of Boise, and the Idaho State Department of Fish and Game to ensure that the BPCA is not cut off from the foothills by development, and that wildlife populations concentrated in the area do not reach levels that are damaging to the BPCA as a habitat resource.

6.4 LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED

It is recommended that the Friends of BPCA build a fund (through gifts, trust, and fundraising efforts) to acquire private lands adjacent to, and within the BPCA study area, as willing sellers make them available for sale.

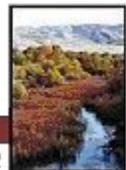


6.5 POTENTIALLY CONFLICTING USES

Although access is restricted on lands owned by IFPL, IDPR, and Ada County, evidence of human trespass does exist. Some activities that may be surmised from debris found on the site include camping, hiking, Paintball games, and fishing from lands other than those privately owned within the study area. It is important that boundaries be clearly delineated (e.g. through fencing) and access policies be posted at areas of known human access. The Friends of BPCA should coordinate with local law enforcement, and local sporting goods and paintball stores to ensure that they are informed of the policies for access at the BPCA.

6.6 WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE

Recreational use of the BPCA by the public can disturb wildlife, causing some species to leave the area, or, in extreme cases, mortality if the disturbance occurs during a stressful period in the lifecycle. Even those humans with the best intentions may disturb wildlife to such an extent as to cause damaging physical stress. One of the primary goals of the Friends of BPCA is to preserve the BPCA for wildlife habitat. To that end, restriction of human access is necessary to prevent disturbance to wildlife. Pets from adjacent housing communities, and feral animals must also be controlled to prevent predation and disturbance to wildlife. Trapping of feral animals, and fencing where appropriate will help to eliminate disturbance to wildlife within the boundaries of the BPCA.



SECTION 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS, SUMMARY, AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 GENERAL

This section summarizes the recommendations made in Section 6 of this Master Plan.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS – OVERVIEW

Goals for the BPCA include Habitat Enhancement, Education, and Non-intrusive recreation. The following management recommendations support the goals, and present management concepts to assist the Friends of BPCA in attaining their goals for the area.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS – SPECIFIC

The BPCA is an important wildlife habitat area. Although the pool area was formed by damming the river, and is thus a man-made system, it functions in many ways like a natural area. Quality shrub-steppe, wetland, and riparian systems exist within the study area. Habitat enhancement activities will improve the quality and function of the BPCA. Many recommended activities may employ volunteer labor to assist the accomplishment of the goals of the Friends of BPCA.

The following management concepts support the goal of Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat:

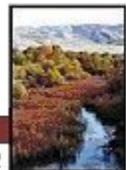
- Deepen side channels within the New York and Penitentiary Management Units. Excavation to ground water elevation would promote cottonwood growth by creating seedbeds capable of germinating black cottonwood seeds. Regeneration of the cottonwood community from seed will promote genetic diversity and ensure the natural propagation of the cottonwood forest in the future. More water in the side channels will also enhance habitat for amphibian species.
- Explore the possibility of excavating shorelines, especially on the south side of the river, to create a bench that would support more riparian vegetation
- Work with Barber Dam interests to study modifications to Barber Dam, and the possibility of raising water levels within the BPCA in such a way as to promote groundwater recharge and improved riparian ecology without detriment to current structures and property.



- Work with local water control entities (irrigation district and Corps of Engineers) to explore the possibility of high flows in the spring (for cottonwood regeneration) or release of more water into the Boise River through the BPCA
- Protect existing cottonwood trees from beaver damage by wrapping with metal mesh or fencing
- Plant cottonwood and willow from cuttings where appropriate
- Replace exotic plant species with native species
- Utilize an active and aggressive weed control strategy which employs chemical, mechanical, and biological means
- Place nest boxes and bat boxes within the area. This will create habitat and help to control the insect population
- Purchase feeding grounds for big game animals. This could be accomplished independently, as a joint effort with the Idaho State Department of Fish and Game, or as a requirement of new urban/residential development in the area. Along with this action, a set-aside of migration corridors between the upland Foothills Management Unit and the feeding grounds is recommended
- Purchase privately-owned lands within the BPCA study area as they become available
- Purchase private lands adjacent to the BPCA study area to provide critical wildlife habitat and corridors
- Consolidate management of public lands within the BPCA under one agency
- Work with county, city, and transportation planners to limit noise in the BPCA that may be caused by adjacent development or construction. It will be particularly important to limit noise during critical periods such as periods of use by Bald eagles, (a species very susceptible to disturbance), or other seasonally important periods for resident wildlife, such as nesting and fawning season.

In pursuit of the Friends of BPCA goals of education and non-intrusive access, several options are available:

- Create a short, interpretive, self-guided nature trail southeast of the IDPR headquarters, within the Northern Buffer management unit. The proximity to the IDPR would make it more readily supervised, and the natural slope would serve as a deterrent to access the more sensitive lands along the river
- Continue to support Bald eagle Day as a means of education and outreach to reinforce the value of the BPCA



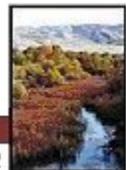
- Develop several short, educational programs (aimed at various age groups and audiences) for presentation at schools, homeowner's meetings, and other public events around Boise
- Interpret the history of the Barber Lumber Mill and the town of Barber for the public. Utilize historic maps, photos, and oral histories of residents and mill employees.

Appropriate areas for placement of displays include:

1. Idaho Shakespeare Festival
 2. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Headquarters
 3. Within the Northern Buffer Management Unit. It is suggested that the Friends of BPCA work with adjacent landowners within the Northern Buffer Management Unit to procure a recreation easement that would allow a recreational trail or overlook, perhaps with a small structure, that would enable viewers to look onto the site of the mill and into the BPCA study area, and imagine how the landscape has changed through the years.
 4. Along Warm Springs Avenue, within the Penitentiary or Infrastructure Management Units
- Educate local land - owners about the habitat needs of big game and how they can make their land wildlife friendly
 - For adjacent home - owners who do not want to cooperate with efforts to provide wildlife habitat, recommend plantings that do not attract wildlife that browses. Educate home-owners about techniques to protect young trees and shrubs from browse damage.

7.4 CONCLUSION

The BPCA provides excellent wildlife habitat along the Boise River in southeast Boise. Over 200 bird species and 60 mammal, reptile, and amphibian species have been documented there, including several US Fish and Wildlife Service "Species of Concern". However, past years of grazing, noxious weed infestation, and the lowering of the hydrology behind Barber Dam have degraded habitat quality within the BPCA. Human intervention to improve the ecological quality of the BPCA will provide vast benefits. Management concepts that will lead to enhancement of habitat within the BPCA have been outlined within Section 6 and Section 8 of this Master Plan.



Other goals for the BPCA (as set out by the Friends of BPCA) include education and non-intrusive recreation, which is compatible with habitat preservation goals. Many opportunities exist to fulfill these goals. The unique natural and human history of the area presents many possibilities for historical interpretation on the site. Schools and universities offer a wealth of students to create and partake of interpretive facilities. State and private universities in the area extend many possibilities for partnership and academic study of the BPCA, which will further knowledge and goals of the Friends of BPCA and the values of the BPCA to the community at large.

