



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
IDAHO

Lonnie Huter  
Four Rivers Field Office  
lhuter@blm.gov

RE: Proposed changes to Four Rivers RMP (DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2008-0016-RMP-EIS)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Four Rivers Resource Management Plan in light of the recently proposed changes (DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2008-0016-RMP-EIS). The Idaho Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) views the proposed closures by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to oil and gas leasing on areas that have little or no oil and gas potential as reasonable and prudent. In addition, we encourage the BLM to adopt Alternative B the Final Environmental Impact Statement, incorporating the larger 123,430-acre Backcountry Conservation Area (BCA). Given the most current data on migration corridors for wildlife, as well as the area's invaluable winter range characteristics, we believe this would be of great benefit and fully in line with the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Order (SO) 3362 by protecting critical winter range habitat for big game.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife. We seek to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and work on behalf of fish, wildlife and wild places. With chapters in 48 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, as well as nearly 2,000 dues paying members in Idaho, BHA attracts sportsmen and women, as well as other public land users, from across the continent.

Data on wildlife migration continues to be generated and released in real time. The most current data indicates that at least six migration corridors – including those for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn – fall within the boundaries of the larger BCA; more than would be covered by the BCA on the eastern side of Highway 20 alone. The wildlife values of the western side of Highway 20 in the proposed areas are known and enjoyed by a wide range of hunters, and wintering wildlife populations can be seen there in significant numbers.

Recreational pressure on wildlife continues push outward from the Treasure Valley – indeed across the entire state - and wintering range and migration corridors for wildlife are increasingly imperiled as a result. Pursuing Alternative B and creating the larger BCA would help to mitigate these effects in a critical area. This alternative would incorporate the most up-to-date data on migration corridors, provide the greatest benefit to wildlife, helping to protect the future of our hunting heritage at a time when unprecedented development pressures have created a great need for such actions.



---

[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/IDAHO\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/IDAHO_BHA)  
[IDAHO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:IDAHO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)

Idaho BHA continues to be appreciative of the BLM and the Four Rivers Field Office for its ongoing efforts. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

The Idaho Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



---

[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/IDAHO\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/IDAHO_BHA)  
[IDAHO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:IDAHO@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)