

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION ANALYSIS-DECISION

Twin Falls

Recreation Management
Unit Wide
Suppl R-1.5

Recommendation R-1.5:

Enhance hunting activities in the MFP area by taking the following actions:

- a) Implement an intensive habitat management program to increase and improve game populations in the South Hills and Shoshone Basin in order to increase opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting in these areas.
- b) Continue to implement the Twin Falls Isolated Tracts EMP in order to improve pheasant and other game bird hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities and to acquire public access to these tracts of public land.
- c) Close all known sage grouse nesting areas and strutting grounds to off-road vehicle use to improve population numbers and, thus, hunting opportunities.
- d) Improve shoreline cover and/or provide hunter blinds in waterfowl hunting areas (Murtaugh Lake, Salmon Falls Reservoir, Snake River).

Support Needs:

District Resources or Area Staff -
Wildlife Biologist to prepare Habitat Management Plans, identify critical sage grouse nesting and strutting grounds, etc.

Rationale:

Hunting, though providing only a small amount to the economy of Twin Falls County, is a significant contributor to the income generated by recreation and will contribute more in the future. By improving game populations and providing for improved hunting experiences, the BLM is not only providing for this increase in economic growth, but it is also better providing for a user demand which will always exist. These recommendations will help provide for an adequate supply of hunting opportunities on public lands commensurate with public needs and resource potentials (BLM Manual 1603.120.5).

Interviews of 50 residents of Twin Falls County in order to determine attitudes regarding the management of public lands in the county resulted in some rather conflicting results regarding hunting. Over half of those contacted (58%) felt that multiple use plans should consider "people" needs over those of wildlife with 46% favoring those individuals making a living from the land receiving first consideration ahead of recreation, wildlife, etc. In spite of this, 78% felt that no single use should receive special consideration. Though appearing contradictory, this is indicative of the basic conflict of income procedure uses vs. pleasure uses. Equal treatment for all is desired, but recognized as a goal that cannot always be obtained.

Results of the issue statement survey of Twin Falls County resulted in approximately the same conclusions regarding attitudes about wildlife and hunting. Because attitudes are mixed, the BLM needs to provide for hunting activities (and other wildlife-related opportunities) in a manner which, while improving hunting opportunities on public lands, does not result in a significant alteration of livestock grazing activities on public lands.

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-1.5 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Hunting is an important recreation activity for many people in Twin Falls County. Enhancement of wildlife populations will benefit recreation. Coordination between range and wildlife during the planning and implementation of water improvements will allow provisions for both resources. Off-road vehicles are used by a variety of public land users. Closing all known sage grouse strutting and nesting areas would affect many other activities.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.5 -

Implement vegetation plantings for wildlife in areas identified as lacking sufficient wildlife forage. Provide water sources as determined in WL-1.3, 2.3, 3.3 and 4.11. Continue implementation of the Twin Falls Isolated Tracts HMP. Do not close sage grouse nesting or strutting grounds to ORVs until objective data concerning conflicts are collected. Monitor ORV use so that conflicts can be quickly identified and remedied. Allow waterfowl hunters to provide for their own hunting blinds.

Reasons:

Providing for wildlife needs will benefit hunting as well as general recreation and sightseeing. Sage grouse currently use many areas for nesting and/or strutting. Due to the large number of use areas that have been identified, the grouse appear to be coping with the current ORV situation and no restrictions appear warranted at this time. Construction of hunting blinds should be a low priority expense as most hunters are willing to provide their own.

Support Needs:

Wildlife Biologist and
Range Conservationist -
Provide coordination of area for
wildlife projects.

Area Outdoor Recreation Planner -
Monitor ORV use.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept R-1.5 in full.
2. Reject R-1.5 in full.
3. Disregard wildlife recommendations.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-1.5 Step 3

Decision:

Modify the multiple-use recommendation consistent with WL-2.12 and R-1.10.

- a. Allow ORV use without restriction except during the period from March 15 through June 15 in critical sage grouse nesting-brood rearing complexes. During this period, vehicular use will be limited to existing roads and trails.
- b. Close critical sage grouse wintering areas to snowmobiling.

Accept the remainder of the multiple use recommendation.

Rationale:

Improvement of wildlife habitat benefits the wildlife populations as well as providing public recreation. However, this effort is best implemented by considering other land uses and actual public need.

OK
ME
9-14-87

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation Management
Overlay Reference	C.8
Step 1 R-1.6	Step 3

Recommendation R-1.6:

Develop the following facilities to benefit boating activities:

- a) Additional boat access and launching/docking facilities on Salmon Falls Reservoir.
- b) Access points for put-in and take-out of canoes, kayaks, etc., on Upper Salmon Falls Creek.

Support Needs:

District Operations - Engineering to design and construct boat launches, docks, etc.

Rationale:

Boating activities provide the second largest amount of Retail Trade Sales of all the recreation activities. Though total recreation earnings in Twin Falls County are less than 1% of the total, public demand for water sports is, and will continue to be, a significant factor in total recreation use. Nearly 20 percent of the recreation visitor days on public land are attributable to boating activities.

Though no specific written comments have addressed boating or identified a specific need for additional facilities, the Twin Falls County Commissioners have specifically identified a need for more launching facilities on Salmon Falls Reservoir due to the heavy use the existing launch is receiving. This occurred on a tour Burley District personnel attended with the commissioners in June, 1980. In addition, the 1977 Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified a need for additional boat launching facilities in the Springs Region. See tables 4-62 and 4-63 in recreation PAA.

Multiple Use Analysis

The public has identified a need for additional boating facilities at Salmon Falls Reservoir. This need was expressed at an issue-identification meeting held by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in March 1980. Additional facilities may impact raptors that nest along the canyon.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.6 -
Provide additional boat access and launching facilities on Salmon Falls Reservoir as appropriate. Consider location of existing raptor nesting sites during the planning and construction of developments. Maintain the current status of access points

Reasons:

The current Salmon Falls Reservoir facilities have been receiving high amounts of use. Additional developments will help to alleviate crowding. The current canoeing/kayaking use on Upper Salmon Falls Creek is adequately supplied with access points at this time.

Note: Attach additional information regarding canoeing and kayaking on Upper

Salmon Falls Creek.

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Name (MFP)
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Activity
Recreation

Overlay Reference
Step 1 R-1.6 Step 3

Decision:

Modify multiple-use recommendation in accordance with Lands Decision L-7.2.

OK
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9-14-87

Rationale:

Land parcels with recreational value have been identified and evaluated with other resource uses on the tracts and a determination made for their retention or disposal.

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Recreation Management

Overlay Reference C.7

Step 1 R-1.7 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.7:

Retain the General Mining Law withdrawal on the quarry site near Rabbit Springs (T.16 S., R.15 E., Sec. 2: SW $\frac{1}{2}$)

Support Needs:

None.

Rationale:

This site is the only identified area of public land in the Twin Falls Planning Unit where significant amounts of rockhounding occur. Though rockhounding may be done in other areas it is this area that apparently is most important. Though no specific contact has been made with rockhounding organizations in the Twin Falls area, it is known through The Magic Valley Gem News (a monthly publication of the Magic Valley Gem Club, Twin Falls) that members of that club use the site frequently on an individual basis and infrequently as a site for club outings. Therefore, it should be retained for public use for this activity.

Multiple Use Analysis

The Rabbit Springs area is the only identified site in the Planning Unit where significant amounts of rockhounding occur. The minerals activity has recommended a rockhounding area. Upgrading of the Rabbit Springs campground has been recommended. The Rabbit Springs area also includes a cultural resources site.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.7 -
Retain the withdrawal as recommended. Designate the area as a rock-rockhounding site (see M-4.3). Take any necessary protective measures to ensure the integrity of the cultural resource site.

Reasons:

The Rabbit Springs area is the only known location where specific provision for the rockhounding activity can be made.

OK
MR
9-14-87

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation Management
Overlay Reference	C.8
Step 1	R-1.8 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.8:

Take the following actions to preserve, protect, and interpret sites with value for sightseeing activities:

- 1) Fence and place interpretive signing at the Blow Hole (T. 11 S., R. 14 E., Sec. 34).
- 2) Protect a representative site of the Melon Valley gravel deposits and place interpretive signing at the site (T. 9 S., R. 14 E., Sec. 11).
- 3) Retain in public ownership all isolated parcels of public land in order to provide greater diversity in the landscape, making sightseeing more pleasurable.
- 4) Protect (by fencing, if necessary) and place interpretive signing at a variety of archaeological, historic, and cultural sites as identified in MFP 1 for Cultural Resource Management and in MFP 1 Recreation Management Recommendations R-1.3, R-2.1, and R-2.2.

Rationale:

Sightseeing (including driving for pleasure) is the most participated in recreation activity in this country. The 1977 Outdoor Recreation Survey (HCRS) reported that the four most participated in activities were picnicking, sightseeing, swimming, and driving for pleasure. Though difficult to quantify, figures in URA Step 3, Table C.1 show nearly 250,000 visitor days of use just on the major highways in the planning unit. Because so much use is identifiable as "sightseeing" use, the BLM should be providing facilities (roads, overlooks, etc.) and programs which will provide the sightseer with activity opportunities. By protecting and signing (interpretive) various geologic, historic, cultural, etc., sites, "destination" opportunities would be provided and protected, offering the sightseer specific areas to view.

Support Needs:

District Resources or Area Staff -
Archaeologist and Geologist to determine interpretive needs, Realty Specialist to initiate any needed withdrawals.

District Operations - Engineers for layout and design of fencing, etc.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1690-21 (April 1978)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Name (MFP)

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Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1R-1.8 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Provision of sightseeing locations will benefit the public by providing interpretive information about significant areas. Refer to VRM-1.6 for discussion concerning isolated tracts. Refer to CRM-1.9 for discussion concerning cultural resources protection. Refer to R-1.3, R-2.1, R-2.2, CRM-1.1 and CRM-1.3 for discussion concerning specific cultural resource sites.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.8 -

Implement the recommended actions concerning the Blow Hole and the Melon Valley gravel site. Provide protection and interpretation of important cultural resource sites (see CRM-1.1, CRM-1.3, R-1.3, R-2.1 and R-2.2).

Fencing the Blow Hole should not be done until adequate on-site assessment is done to determine that the fencing has a purpose relative to protecting the safety of observers. Fencing alone will not keep people away from the hole if they want to get close to or in it.

The Melon Valley material can continue to be used. Coordinated planning is needed to determine the amount and location of material and the best method to use for protecting enough to meet the sightseeing objective.

Support Needs:

District Archeologist & Geologist -
Assist in the interpretation of sites.

District Operations -
Assist with fencing.

Reasons:

Even though fuel prices are rising, sightseeing will remain an activity with high participation rates. By providing identification, protection and interpretation of sites, the Bureau can help the public benefit from these locations. All the values of isolated tracts can not be adequately assessed at this time. Disposal actions require an environmental assessment and a land report. During this analysis process, the relative values of retention and disposal can be compared and an appropriate decision can be made. Protection and interpretation of cultural resources is needed to allow the public to benefit from these nonrenewable resources.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject R-1.8 in full.
2. Accept R-1.8 in full.
3. Disregard L-2.5 and 7.2.
4. Disregard R-1.3, R-2.1, R-2.2, CRM-1.1 and CRM-1.3.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1973)