

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	National History Resource Management
Objective Number	NH-1

OBJECTIVE:

Designate representative natural ecosystems and areas which represent the ecological and geological character of the United States in order to protect, preserve, interpret and provide for scientific study of these areas.

RATIONALE:

Provisions of such areas will enhance the educational and scientific values of the areas, strengthen cultural appreciation of natural history, and foster a wider interest and concern in the conservation of the nation's natural heritage.

Several national programs have been established to identify, designate, study, and monitor these areas. These programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) The National Natural Landmark System - Established in 1963 under the administration of the National Park Service, the program is now administered by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The program encourages the preservation of areas containing "unique" and/or "representative type" ecological and geological characters of the United States.
- 2) Research Natural Area System - Initially started in 1927, the program is sponsored and promoted by the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves (inter-departmental committee consisting of representatives from eight cooperating agencies). Natural areas serve: as control or baseline areas for comparison with those influenced by man; as educational and research areas for ecological and environmental studies; and to protect gene pools for typical as well as rare and endangered organisms.
- 3) The National Parks and Monuments System.
- 4) The Wilderness System.

BLM Manual 1603.12C.3 Long-Term Objectives.

- b. Identify, evaluate, and bring under protective development all significant natural, historic, and cultural values found on public lands. Provide for the public use and development of these values where consistent with preservation goals.

BLM Manual 1603-II.G.2. Specific Goals.

- a. Identify, through the planning system, areas which qualify for management as "primitive", "back country", or "natural areas". Prior to making any formal designations, management plans should be prepared and there must be assurance through the budgeting process that funding to implement management plans will be available.

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**MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN**  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Natural History
Overlay Reference	
Step	NH-1.1 Step 3

Recommendation: NH-1.1 (*Decision*)

Rationale:

Designate an area of Salmon Falls Creek (Canyon) between Salmon Falls Dam and Balanced Rock as the Salmon Falls Creek Natural Area. Eastern boundary would extend approximately 500 feet beyond the canyon rim.

The proposal to designate the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon as a natural area has been discussed for several years and it has been, in some publications, listed as a Research Natural Area (Research Natural Area Needs in Idaho - A First Estimate, edited by C. A. Wellner and F. D. Johnson, Dec. 1974 - Table 1. Established Research Natural Areas in Idaho). In Feb. 1976, the Burley District Multiple Use Advisory Board approved a recommendation to designate an area of Salmon Falls Canyon as a natural area (extending 1/4 mile either side of stream).

Acquire the following parcels of private and State lands to insure the integrity of the Natural Area designation:

- T.10 S., R.13 E., Sec. 33: SW1/4 NW1/4
- T.11 S., R.13 E., Sec. 4: SW1/4 NW1/4
- T.11 S., R.13 E., Sec. 16: NE1/2 NE1/4,  
and SE1/4 NE1/4
- T.12 S., R.14 E., Sec. 36: N1/2 NE1/4  
and SE1/4 NE1/4
- T.13 S., R.14 E., Sec. 36: NE1/4

Public response has generally supported providing some type of restrictive management designation on this area, though a recent public survey in the planning unit indicated that only 26.8 percent of those responding supported no grazing or ORV use in the area. Yet 17 of 19 responses received after the State Director's initial announcement not to propose the Lower Salmon Falls Creek Unit (17-10) as a Wilderness Study Area supported identifying the area as a WSA. Considering these responses, the State Director's final announcement on which units would be placed in WSA status included the Lower Salmon Falls Creek Unit. Therefore, there is considerable support for maintaining the canyon in a natural state.

Shown on overlay C.7 as R-1.1-2 thru R-2.2-6.) See also R-1.3a.

Support Needs:

State Office - Cadastral Survey may be needed to identify boundary.

District Resources or Area Staff - Realty Specialist to initiate withdrawals that may be desired to protect the area from mining, public acquisition, etc.

The Twin Falls Recreation Committee, in 1969, identified this area as being the most primitive area in Twin Falls County and recommended that it be preserved as such.

*Coordinate  
w/ L-7.2 and  
R-1.1. MB  
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

Natural History

Overlay Reference

Step 1NH-1.2 Step 3

Recommendation: NH-1.2

Designate the Dry Cataracts area as a National Natural Landmark and instigate management in the areas which will preserve the geological character of the area (erosional features resulting from overflow of the Lake Bonneville). This would entail a limit on surface-disturbing activities (mining, gravel, extraction, land fills, etc.).

Support Needs:

Determine the boundaries.

Rationale:

A study of the subject area by professional ecologists and geologists in concert with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) (after two initial studies had identified the area for possible inclusion in the program) found the area to be of national significance. It should be understood that HCRS is the designating agency and that BLM only supports the designation through management.

Formal notification of the HCRS proposed recommendation to designate the site as a national natural landmark was published in the Federal Register, December 18, 1979 (Public Notice published in the Twin Falls Times New on December 27, 1979 and January 3, 1980).

The following points from the draft BLM-HCRS Cooperative Agreement and the draft National Natural Landmark Interim Regulations are important to this discussion:

1. HCRS is expected to obtain the approval of the Director, BLM, prior to submission of a site administered by BLM, to the Secretary of the Interior Advisory Board for consideration as a National Natural Landmark.
2. Only those potential landmarks approved through, or consistent with, a BLM Management Framework Plan will be approved for nomination to the Advisory Board.
3. The BLM is responsible for managing National Landmarks on Bureau lands. Designation does not automatically preclude other resource uses.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Step 1 NH-1.2 Step 3

*(Decision)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Manage the public land in the Dry Cataracts area so as to support a national natural landmark designation. The National Park Service (NPS) has been given the responsibility for the landmark program from the defunct Heritage Conservation and Recreation Program. Cooperate with the NPS in obtaining national designation for the area. Do not allow surface-disturbing activities on the two western parcels. Allow limited extraction of saleable materials from the two eastern parcels. Coordinate such development with the NPS and with area wildlife biologist to mitigate impacts on the area's geologic character and wildlife habitat.

Support Needs:

Cadastral Survey.

Cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and Shoshone BLM District.

Development of a Dry Cataracts Management Plan.

Reasons:

The Dry Cataracts area contains unique geologic characteristics of regional and national significance. This area is testimony to the tremendous power of the Bonneville flood. This flood is one of only two such catastrophic floods known to have occurred in the United States. The blind canyons, terraces, plunge pools, waterfalls and scablands illustrate a geologic process unparalleled in historic time.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject NH-1.2, R-1.3d.
2. Disregard VRM-1.2.
3. Accept M-1.1.
4. Accept M-4.4 with no modifications.

Decision:

Accept multiple-use recommendation.

Rationale:

Visible evidence of the Bonneville flood found in the geologic features of the Dry Cataract area are considered unique. Interim management will preserve this area for possible inclusion into a national natural landmark designation.

*Dry Stones  
access road has  
impacted one of  
the western  
parcels -  
WPC  
9/14-87*

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)