UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN – STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name ⸱ ⁓⁓⁓
Twin Falls

Activity Visual Resource
Management

Objective Number
VRM-1

Objective:

Manage all public lands in a manner which will protect and maintain the existing visual qualities, provide for enhancement where consistent with management policies, and provide for rehabilitation of lands which presently do not meet the visual quality standards of surrounding lands.

Rationale:

Visual resource values have been recognized as important elements of the human environment. Degradation of the visual resource represents an adverse impact to the human environment.

Public Law 91-190, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, states in part "...assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surrounding..."

Public Law 94-579, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, states in part that "the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental...values;" (Sec. 102 (a)(8)) and "regulations and plans for the protection of public land areas of critical environmental concern be promptly developed;" (Sec. 102 (a)(11)).

BLM Manual 1603 states that visual resource management techniques should be applied to all Public Lands through the planning system. These same techniques should be utilized in the analysis of specific development proposals initieated by the BLM or under permit.

An inventory of scenic quality in the planning unit was completed in the summer of 1980 in accordance with BLM Manual 8411 - Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation. Results of this inventory identified scenic quality (A, B, or C) throughout the planning unit and is documented in URA Step 3 for Visual Resource Management. In addition, cultural modifications were identified and visual significance identified.

Additional procedures, as outlined in the 8411 manual were completed before delineating the VRM Classes which form the basis for the following recommendations. These procedures include a seen-area analysis, distance zone mapping, a consideration of use volume, and an extensive (low level) survey to determine user interest in visual resources and their concern for changes in the existing landscape. Therefore, the importance of visual quality is determined for the planning unit using several criteria.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Twin Falls

Activity
Visual Resource Manageme

Overlay Reference   Overlay D.5
Step 1 VRM-1.1 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.1:

Designate 3,665 acres as VRM Class I.
These areas are to be managed primarily
for natural ecological change only.

a. Any management proposals which would
   not preserve or maintain present
   ecological and environmental resource
   values will be in conflict with this
   management classification.

b. Any intrusions (dumps, old cars, etc.)
   exceeding 10 points when the visual
   contrast rating (BLM Manual 8431) is
   applied would need to be removed.

c. No mechanical vegetation manipulation
   would be allowed. Minor range pro-
   jects such as some fences, spring
   developments, etc., could be done
   with hand labor and using natural
   materials. Projects shall not exceed
   10 on the visual contrast rating. DO
   or SO Landscape Architect should be
   consulted during the early planning
   stages of any project.

Support:

District Resource of Area Staff -
   Landscape Architect (should be hired)
   to perform visual contrast ratings and
   to identify areas where rehabilitation
   is needed (and how to complete rehabil-
   itation).

Rationale:

For the protection and maintenance of
these unique ecological and environmental
resource areas. According to FLPMA, Sec.
603, the Bureau of Land Management is man-
dated to complete a wilderness inventory
on all Public Lands in 1991. Until such
a time as a parcel of land has been drop-
ped from further wilderness consideration,
it shall be managed in a manner so as not
to impair the suitability of such areas
for preservation as wilderness.

BLM Manual 8400.07 A. General Philosophy.
one of the quality environment is its ap-
pearance, aesthetics is receiving more and
more attention...Many of BLM's land manage
ment activities involve some alteration of
the natural character of the landscape.
It is imperative that these alterations be
understood and managed to fit the natural
character and quality of the landscape.
Public lands have a variety of scenic
values, but management objectives of the
many other resources may conflict with
the protection of the visual resource.
These different values and objectives
warrant different levels of protection
for the visual resource. Because it is
not practical to provide the same degree
of management to the visual resource on
all BLM lands, it becomes necessary to
have a system to evaluate the visual re-
sources and to determine what degree of
management is desirable and practical,
including protection, rehabilitation and
enhancement.

Multiple Use Analysis

Refer to Wilderness Recommendation WM-1.2 for discussion of Salmon Falls Creek Natural Area. Salmon Falls Canyon possesses important scenic qualities. Up to the present time, the canyon has, in effect, protected itself. Developments that would disturb the visual qualities of the area have not been economically feasible. Such protection can not be relied on completely. The natural area and VRM Class I designations would insure that all management proposals do maintain the ecological and environmental resource values that are currently found in the canyon. An analysis of other resource activities indicates no major proposal that would conflict with a Class I designation within the canyon.

The state director has issued a proposed decision concerning the wilderness inventory unit 17-26, the Salmon Falls Creek Unit. The proposed decision stated that this unit would be dropped from further consideration. An analysis of other resource activities indicates that no major proposals would conflict with either a Class I or Class II designation.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify VRM-1.1 –
  Manage Salmon Falls Canyon between the Salmon Falls Dam and Lilly Grade for natural ecological change in accordance with a VRM Class I designation. This designation would include only the area from rim to rim. Manage the canyon from Lilly Grade to Balanced Rock under a VRM Class II designation. 1,532 acres

Reasons:

A large amount of public concern exists for the protection of the scenic beauty found in Salmon Falls Canyon. A VRM Class I designation will help protect and maintain a unique ecological area.

Support Needs:

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District Landscape Architect –
  Review future management proposals and to help mitigate any disturbances of visual resources.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject VRM-1.1.
2. Disregard WM-1.2, NH-1.1, R-1.3a.
3. Disregard L-2.4, VRM-1.5.

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RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name (MFP)

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Activity
Visual Resource Management

Overlay Reference Overlay D.5

Step 1 VRM-1.2 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.2: *(Decision)*

Designate 12,695 acres as VRM Class II.
This Class requires management activities
to be designated and located to blend into
the natural landscape and <u>not to be visu-
ally apparent to the casual visitor</u>.

The following resource management guides
shall apply:

1) <u>Range Management</u>

Juniper and sagebrush removal must be
made to simulate adjacent natural open-
ings.

Fences, water developments, etc., would
require construction with mostly hand
tools and be of natural materials. No
red fence posts allowed.

2) <u>Structures</u>

Structures must incorporate the natur-
al lines, colors, and materials of the
natural landscape. Skylined structures
would be prohibited.

3) <u>Roads</u>

Required roads must be concealed by
vegetation, follow natural landforms,
and be seeded as soon as possible.
Overland "roads" may be necessary in
some areas to protect the scenic
values. Cut and fill areas that ex-
ceed 5 feet will generally not be
accepted unless the fill can be re-
placed and vegetation established in
2 years.

Rationale:

Because of the scenic quality in these
areas and the public sensitivity about
resource managment activities as deter-
mined by an "extensive"(survey described
in the Recreation PAA), these lands must
receive careful environmental consider-
ation design to minimize visual contrast.

See also Rationale with VRM Class I Re-
commendation - BLM Manual 8400.07A.
<u>General Philosophy</u>.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name
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Visual Resource Management
Overlay Reference Overlay D.5
Step 1 VRM-1.3 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.3: *(Decision)*

Designate 32,819 acres as VRM Class III.
(see overlay D.5). This class provides
the management activities <u>may be evident</u>
to the casual visitor; however, the activ-
ity should remain subordinate to the visual
strength and natural character of the land-
scape.

The following resource management guides
shall apply:

1) Range Management

Juniper and sagebrush clearings shall
simulate typical natural openings.

2) Structures

Structures should incorporate the
natural lines, colors and materials
of the natural landscape. Skylined
structures should be avoided, if
possible.

3) Roads

Roads should be partially concealed
by vegetation, follow natural land-
forms, and be seeded as soon as
possible.

Any intrusions (VRM-Class V) shall be
rehabilitated to meet a level appropriate
to Class III area.

Support Needs:

District Resource or Area Staff - Land-
scape Architect to complete contrast
ratings and to insure that visual con-
siderations are incorporated into pro-
ject lay-out and design.

Rationale:

Because of the scenic quality in these
areas and the public sensitivity about
resource management activities (as
determined by an "extensive" survey
described in the Recreation PAA), these
lands must receive careful environmental
consideration and project design to
minimize visual contrast.

See also Rationale with VRM Class I Re-
commendation - BLM Manual 8400.07A.
General Philosophy.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION—ANALYSIS—DECISION

Name (MFP)
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Bisual Resource Management
Overlay Reference   D.5
Step 1 VRM-1.4 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.4: *(Decision)*

Designate 184,252 acres as VRM Class IV.
(See Overlay D.5). This class provides
that management activities may be visu-
ally apparent to the casual observer and
may also become dominant in the landscape.

The following resource management guides
shall apply:

1) Range Management

   Junipers and sagebrush clearings shall
   simulate typical natural openings.

2) Structures should incorporate the
   natural lines, colors, and materials
   of the natural landscape.

3) Roads should follow the natural land-
   forms and be seeded as soon as possible.

Any significant intrusions (VRM Class V)
shall be rehabilitated to meet a level
appropriate to Class IV areas.

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Support:

District Resource or Area Staff - Land-
   scape Architect to insure that

Rationale:

Due to their low scenic quality and
public sensitivity values (as iden-
tified in an "extensive" level sur-
vey described in the Recreation PAA),
management actions in these areas may
dominate the natural landscape char-
acter.

Multiple Use Analysis

VRM Class IV includes areas that have low scenery and public sensitivity
values. Other resource activities generally dominate the natural landscape.
Resource management guidelines are most liberal within this VRM class and
other acitivity proposals can be reasonably sure of proceeding as recommended.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

| Name *(MFP)* |
| Twin Falls |
| Activity   Visual Resource Management |
| Overlay Reference D.5 |
| Step 1 VRM-1.5 Step 3 |

Recommendation VRM-1.5: *(Decision)*

Rehabilitate areas identified as VRM Class V in order to bring the site back into character with the surrounding landscape (into the VRM Class of surrounding lands). These sites include garbage dumps (unauthorized), abandoned gravel pits, etc. Many of the sites have been identified during the scenic quality inventory (shown on overlay D.5), but other sites exist which have not yet been identified and will be added to the list as necessary.

Areas for rehabilitation have been identified at the following sites:

Garbage Dumps - T. 12 S., R. 18 E.,
           Sec. 9: NE¼SE¼
         - T. 12 S., R. 17 E.,
           Sec. 28: NW¼NW¼
         - T. 16 S., R. 16 E.,
           Sec. 30: SE¼SE¼
         - T. 11 S., R. 14 E.,
           Sec. 19: SW¼
         - T. 10 S., R. 14 E.,
           Sec. 30: NE¼NE¼

Gravel Pits - T. 16 S., R. 17 E.,
           Sec. 2: NE¼NW¼

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Support Needs:

Other - Fire crews, YACC, etc., to complete cleanup operations at sites.

Rationale:

These sites are visually intrusive to the natural character of the landscape and are, particularly in the case of the garbage dumps, hazardous to human health, livestock, wildlife, etc.

This class applies to areas where the naturalistic character has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring a site back into character with the surrounding landscape. This class applies to areas identified in the scenic evaluation where the quality class has been reduced because of unacceptable cultural modification. The contrast is inharmonious with the characteristic landscape.

Multiple Use Analysis

Indiscriminate garbage dumps are visual intrusions found at various locations in the Planning Unit. These sites require rehabilitation. Unauthorized dumps are incompatible with land management objectives. Abandoned gravel pits are intrusive but not to the extent of dump sites. Other uses for gravel pits should be considered before rehabilitation is implemented. Alternative use possibilities could include an intensive ORV use area or a public shooting range.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 197)