

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name: WFP Twin Falls
Agency Wildlife - Fisheries
Overlay Reference Step 1 WL-3.14 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

RATIONALE:

Enhance and maintain the habitat in and along the following streams and reservoirs for the stocking of the following game fish species:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Fifth Fork of
Rock Creek | - Brook Trout
Cutthroat Trout |
| McMullen Creek | - Brook Trout
Cutthroat Trout |
| Shoshone Creek | - Rainbow Trout
Brook Trout
Cutthroat Trout |
| Bluegill Lake | - Largemouth Bass |
| Horse Creek
Reservoir | - Rainbow Trout
Cutthroat Trout
Brown Trout |
| Berger Reservoir | - Black and White
Crappie |

Fisherman days per year on public land for streams and reservoirs in the Planning Unit has and will continue to increase in the future. The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) shows an average increase of 42 percent in fisherman days from 1975 to 1995. The PAA reflects the importance of fisheries in the Planning Unit. It is reflected in the expenditure of \$104,392.24 and \$737,667.00 for stream fishing and reservoir fishing, respectively, on public land in 1980. This will increase to an estimated \$767,944.00 for stream fishing and \$5,336,560.00 for reservoir fishing by 1995.

Stock additional areas as they become identified.

SUPPORT:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Watershed | - Assistance in habitat enhancement to improve water quality. |
| Recreation | - Assistance in habitat enhancement to provide an improved fisheries for sportsmen. |
| IDFG | - Stocking of fish in designated areas. |
| Wildlife | - Work with IDFG in the stocking of fish in the Planning Unit. |

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (WFP)
Twin Falls

Activity
Wildlife - Fisheries

Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-3.15 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Protect, maintain and encourage the beaver activity in the Fifth Fork of Rock Creek and Shoshone Creek. Provide habitat in McMullen Creek to support a beaver introduction.

RATIONALE:

Beaver activity should be encouraged so as to act as a buffer against reduced water flow in late season and seasons of drought. The beaver will create instream structure that in turn will provide excellent pools for use as fish holding and overwintering areas.

SUPPORT:

Wildlife - Coordination with IDFG in introducing and maintaining beaver populations.

Multiple Use Analysis

The encouragement of beaver activity is important in that it will act as a buffer against reduced water flow in late seasons and seasons of drought. Watershed supports this recommendation. The instream structures constructed by the beaver will provide excellent pools for use as fish holding and overwintering areas. Sport fishing would be enhanced.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-3.15 -
Protect, maintain and encourage beaver activity.

Reason:

Beaver activity in streams will be beneficial not only to wildlife, but watershed and recreation as well.

Support Needs:

Transplant by IDFG.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-3.15.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - In General
Objective Number	WL-4

OBJECTIVE:

Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitats for threatened and endangered, sensitive and high interest mammalian and avian species, amphibians and reptiles, and all other non-game mammalian and avian species.

RATIONALE:

Basic Guidance (1602.13A) states that the Bureau, in deciding among alternative uses of available resources and among management alternatives, will utilize both physical and social data in evaluating the immediate and long-range impact of proposed actions on environmental quality and ecological balance and will strive to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

Non-game wildlife species are scattered throughout the Planning Unit. They are found in all habitat types. BLM has the responsibility to maintain the habitat to support viable populations of all vertebrate species as a wildlife resource to accommodate consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Public interest in non-game species has increased in recent years. Nearly each and every wildlife species currently has a public advocate. Interest will continue to increase in response to growing environmental awareness.

Non-game wildlife also provide an economic benefit. Expenditures related to sport hunting are a factor. Value of non-game pelts taken is significant. Non-consumptive uses such as observational, educational, photography and scientific study also involve considerable expenditures at the present time. There is the potential for a very large increase in monetary values related to non-consumptive uses.

Many of these non-game mammalian and avian species are listed on the Idaho Sensitive Species list (Instruction Memo Number ID-77-96). The bald eagle is on the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species list. It merits special consideration. BLM manual 6840 provides direction with respect to both sensitive and threatened and endangered wildlife species. FLPMA, NEPA, and ESA, are among other laws, all provide a strong basis to support this objective.

BLM's Wildlife Program Activity Policy Statement (1603.12D) describes, in the following narratives, rationale for managing wildlife and their habitats.

1. Description of Program Activity. The Wildlife Program is primarily concerned with the protection and use of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates through the enhancement and maintenance of their habitat components. The program activity is closely coordinated with State wildlife agencies.

The Sikes Act (P.L. 93-452) authorizes the BLM to jointly develop and carry out wildlife programs with State wildlife departments on Federal lands. Currently, in the Twin Falls Planning Unit, the Sikes Act program covers the Cassia-Twin Falls Sikes Act Isolated Tracts and the Milner Habitat Management Plans.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-4.1 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Acquire the following parcel of land to improve the raptor habitat prey base:

T. 11 S., R. 14 E. - Berger Section Sec. 36

SUPPORT:

- Lands - Preparation of land report and EA for land acquisition.
- Recreation - Assistance in acquisition to provide aesthetic value to the Berger.
- Watershed - Assistance in acquisition to protect watershed values.
- Wildlife - Assistance in acquisition.

RATIONALE:

Acquisition of Section 36 (Kerr private) will allow expansion of raptor habitat on public land by providing an expansion area for the raptor prey base.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Public Law 94-579, Title II, Section 205(a) states that "Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Secretary, with respect to the public lands, is authorized to acquire pursuant to this Act by purchase, exchange, donation, or eminent domain, lands or interests therein . . ."

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any activity recommendation. Acquisition of this section of untreated rangeland would not only ensure cover for raptor prey species but could also serve as an area to illustrate the condition of the entire Berger Tract prior to treatment.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-4.1 -
Acquire section 36, T.11 S., R.14 E.

Reason:

Acquisition of this section will ensure cover for raptor prey species and thereby ensure a food supply for raptors in the area.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (NFP)	Twin Falls
Agency	Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-4.2 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Permit oil and gas exploration, surface mining and other activities except during the following periods:

- (1) within one-half mile from Salmon Falls Creek rim for the period March 1 through July 15;
- (2) within one-half mile of known, active golden eagle eyries for the period March 1 through June 30;
- (3) within one-half mile of active ferruginous hawk nests for the period March 1 through July 15.

SUPPORT:

Minerals - Assistance in implementing the above recommendation.

Wildlife - Coordination with all resources in restricting activities along Salmon Falls Canyon rim and around nest sites of golden eagles and ferruginous hawks.

RATIONALE:

The high density of nesting raptors in Salmon Falls Canyon should be protected by restricting all activity and surface occupancy within one-half mile of Salmon Falls Canyon rim for the period recommended. The influence of human activity is responsible for reduced nesting success of raptors.¹ Several sensitive and many high interest raptors inhabit Salmon Falls Canyon. In the Birds of Prey Natural Area adult eagles tolerate activity in the Snake River Canyon below their nests but are very intolerant of human activity on the canyon rim above, particularly during the early nesting season.² Golden eagles nest frequently and readily desert their nest during the period of incubation. Human activity should be restricted from the time the eagles start incubating their eggs until the eaglets are two weeks old. It is unlikely that the adults would desert the nests and young after that. Desertion by the adults and/or premature leaping from the nest by the young can result from human disturbance. Human activity in an area where golden eagles nest or hunt will be sufficient to cause them to desert even if harassment is not deliberate. Although eyries may not be disturbed, hunting territory may be disrupted and prey population reduced, which may have adverse effects on eagles. During the incubation period, ferruginous hawks are sensitive to human activity and even slight disturbances may cause nest abandonment.³ They will readily abandon their nests even after a single visit if the young are still unhatched.

¹ Craighead, J. J. and Craighead, Jr., F. C. 1956. HAWKS, OWLS AND WILDLIFE. The Stackpole Company. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Wildlife Management Institute. Washington D. C.

² Kochert, M. N. 1973. GOLDEN EAGLE CRITIQUE. Available at Conservation Library. Denver Public Library.

³ Olendorff, R. R. 1973. THE ECOLOGY OF THE NESTING BIRDS OF PREY OF NORTHEASTERN

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Name (MFP)
Twin Falls

Activity
Wildlife - Raptors

Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-4.3 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide habitat for the raptor prey base by maintaining native sagebrush communities and allowing irregular patches of native brush to grow back into vast grass areas to increase the "edge" effect, thus wildlife species diversity. Prohibit any type of land treatment, (except fire rehabilitation efforts), within one-half mile of Salmon Falls Canyon rim. Provide for a minimum of 15 percent for the total land treatment area, (spraying, discing, burning, crested wheatgrass planting, etc.), to be left in its present stage of succession in the form of islands scattered throughout the treated area to improve ferruginous hawk habitat.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Coordinatin with wildlife for all range land treatments
- Operations - Layout of land treatment areas.
- Recreation - Assistance in design of projects to provide pleasing aesthetic values.
- Watershed - Assistance in design of projects to enhance watershed value.
- Archaeology - Assistance in implementing recommendation to protect cultural values.
- Wildlife - Design and location of "leave" areas and areas to be protected. Coordination with range and operations before on-the-ground work commences.

RATIONALE:

The majority of raptors in the Planning Unit depend upon ground dwelling mammals for a substantial portion of their diet. Any land treatment that will break up large, monotypic stands of vegetation will enhance raptor habitat. This will result in diverse, thus improved prey base; the prey will be more available to the hunting raptor. It is important to protect the native vegetation within one-half mile of the Salmon Falls Canyon rim in order to maintain the integrity of the raptor prey base. Development of large monotypic areas reduces the number of prey available to the raptors living in the canyon, who do much of their hunting on the rim and adjacent areas. Treating small tracts of land, creating many interspersed areas, will be most beneficial to raptors. This allows for some habitat suitable for possible reproduction and re-establishment of the prey base in the treated areas.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-4.3 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

The area described in this recommendation is used extensively by raptors. Raptors hunt extensively along the edge of sagebrush areas and over crested wheatgrass seedings. These crested wheatgrass seedings are also an important forage source for livestock using the area. Four allotments included in this recommendation are currently not producing adequate forage to meet the grazing preference demand.

This recommendation conflicts with several of the specific activity recommendations as shown in the Impact Analysis. Activities with conflicts are recreation, lands, fire and range.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify the recommendation to allow for vegetative treatment within the half mile buffer strip. Evaluate each project proposed to determine leave areas and problems. Do not treat islands of brush originally omitted from treatments. All treatments within the buffer strip will be evaluated to include recommendations from the wildlife biologist to determine specific areas to leave and layout of the treatment to ensure irregular treatment patterns. A minimum of 15 percent of the treatment area will be omitted from treatment.

Support Needs:

- Range -
Coordinate with wildlife for all range treatments.
- Recreation -
Assistance in design of projects to provide pleasing aesthetic values.
- Wildlife -
Design and locate the leave areas to be protected. Coordination with range and operations before on-the-ground work commences.

Reason:

The recommendation allocates the resources as a compromise that will provide raptor habitat and livestock forage. The recommendation does not provide maximum benefits for raptors or livestock forage but does provide benefits for both. The recommendation as modified appears to be favorable to all resource values that have been identified.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept WL-4.3.
2. Reject WL-4.3.
3. Modify WL-4.3 to do no land treatment within one-half mile of Salmon Falls Canyon rim.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-4.3 Step 3

Decision:

Accept the multiple-use recommendation.

Rationale:

Each specific treatment should be individually designed to insure protection and enhancement of raptor habitat while meeting other multiple use needs.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP):	Twin Falls
Agency:	Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference:	
Step	WL-4.4 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Initiate livestock grazing in known curlew nesting areas after June 15 to maintain habitat and to prevent nest losses from trampling and abandonment.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Develop grazing systems to adhere to the above recommendation.
- Watershed - Assistance in implementing recommendation to enhance watershed values.
- Wildlife - Identification of areas in which to implement grazing systems.

RATIONALE:

Generally, grazing is compatible and often beneficial to long-billed curlew and burrowing owl populations. Trampling of ground nests is a problem with livestock grazing in curlew nesting areas in the spring. The long-billed curlew and western burrowing owl are considered "sensitive" species in Idaho. It is important that their habitat be maintained in optimum condition.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation has the potential for conflict with the normal use on over 30 allotments in the Planning Unit. The proposed restrictions on restricting grazing until after 6/15 could affect any permittee upon who's allotment a nest is found. No quantification of nest trampling or abandonment is given. No such cases have been reported in the Planning Unit to date.

(Decision)
Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify WL-4.4 -
If a critical nesting area is identified, modify the grazing system to protect the long-billed curlew.

Reason:

The chances of a nest being trampled or abandoned as a result of livestock grazing is not sufficient to disrupt existing livestock use periods. The spring period is a critical time for the nesting long-billed curlew which is a "sensitive" species." Any measures which can be implemented to prevent this species from becoming endangered should be incorporated into management plans.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(DISTRICT USE ONLY)

Form 1000-21 (April 1975)