

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.4 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

These parcels of land totaling 760 acres have been identified for acquisition because of their wetland-riparian values for waterfowl, shorebirds, fisheries and other wildlife found in the area. Acquisition would also enlarge sportsmans use areas and enhance access availability. The recreation recommendation R-1.1 identifies access needs for several of the parcels listed in WL-3.4. The areas identified in WL-3.4 are critical to the survival and maintenance of water-oriented wildlife species. It is important that these areas be acquired to insure that they remain in prime condition to meet the needs of wildlife which use the area.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-3.4 -
Acquire all six parcels of land,
totaling 760 acres, to benefit
waterfowl, shorebirds and fisheries
values.

Reason:

BLM ownership and administration will insure that the land use and wildlife benefits provided will remain available.

Support Needs:

Lands -
Preparation of land report and EA.

ISO Appraisal.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-3.4.
2. Reject R-1.1.

Decision:

Modify the multiple-use
recommendation.

- A. Acquire the recommended lands on Shoshone Creek, South Hill, McMullen Creek, Horse Creek Reservoir, and Fifth Fork of Rock Creek.

Rationale:

Federal ownership of the parcels of land included in A would provide opportunity to enhance wildlife values and protect the riparian vegetation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 April 1975

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Activity

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.4 Step 3

Decision (cont.):

- B. Do not acquire the lands containing Cottonwood Reservoir or Deep Creek Reservoir

Rationale (cont.):

Federal ownership of the Deep Creek and Cottonwood Reservoir tracts would not insure the objective desired for these tracts. The reservoirs were constructed to provide storage for irrigation water. If we were to acquire these lands we would still not control the water rights and thus water level fluctuations in the reservoir would be controlled by the irrigation interests. Under this situation we could not guarantee protection of riparian and wildlife values. These are man-made reservoirs for irrigation purposes and they continue to serve that need. Federal ownership in this situation would be inconsistent with the purpose and use of the reservoir.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (B/L/P)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Waterfowl
Overlay Reference	Step 1WL-3.5 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Improve shorebird and waterfowl nesting habitat in the following manner:

- (1) restrict livestock use along all shorelines during the spring and early summer;
- (2) fence off half of each side of existing and future stockpond development;
- (3) insure adequate water in stockpond developments in the spring;
- (4) plant vegetation to enhance cover.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Development of grazing systems to restrict livestock use along shorelines in the spring and early summer. Coordination with wildlife in the development of future stockponds. Assurance of water availability.
- Operations - Construction of fences around stockponds and planting of vegetation.
- Archaeology - Assistance in design to protect archaeological values.
- Watershed - Assistance in design of projects to provide watershed benefits.
- Recreation - Assistance in project design to benefit hunter days and to provide pleasing aesthetics.
- Wildlife - Coordination with range and operations in location and design of fences around stockpond and the plant species to be planted.

RATIONALE:

Population numbers can be increased by improving existing habitat. The livestock interaction of primary concern is the impact of grazing on waterfowl nesting cover. Waterfowl nest density and nesting success are both a function of the quantity and quality of nesting cover, and heavy livestock grazing on wetlands impacts the composition and density of native marsh vegetation. Hence, waterfowl production values are severely reduced.¹ Limited grazing removes some of the dense plant cover which ducks avoid, and generally makes the area more attractive. A fence should be constructed to cover half of the dam and half of the upper area of all stockponds. This is a necessity since livestock tend to concentrate in these areas. In these areas, livestock grazing would have an adverse effect on nesting habitat. Fencing, in this case, is the only feasible method to enhance the shoreline for waterfowl and shorebird production. Stockponds need to have an assured water source in the spring to supply the water requirements for waterfowl and shorebirds. Plantings can be made around the edges to enhance the cover. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Public Law 94-579, Title I, Section 102(a)(7) calls for a "broad management and authority under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield." Refer the Technical Note Number T/N 327 on "Construction and Management of Stockponds for Waterfowl" for specific details. The primary shorebird of concern is the long-billed curlew, a "sensitive" species.

¹ Molini, W. A. 1977. LIVESTOCK INTERACTIONS WITH UPLAND GAME, NONGAME AND WATERFOWL IN THE GREAT BASIN. A WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS. Department of Fish and Game. Reno, Nevada.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.5 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Restricting livestock use along all shorelines conflicts with range management facilities which were installed to provide stock water. Fencing half of the ponds does not conflict with any activity. Lack of livestock use on the earthen dam has resulted in some rodent related dam failures in the Planning Unit. Ponds in the Planning Unit depend on runoff for water. For this reason, it is impossible to insure that adequate water will be available in the spring. No conflicts exist with planting vegetation so long as shrubs and trees are not planted on retention structures.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify WL-3.5 as follows -

- (1) Fence off upstream portion of existing and future stockpond developments. The whole reservoir can be fenced in some cases if a draw-down pipe and trough are installed to provide stock water.
- (2) Plant vegetation to enhance cover as needed.

Support Needs:

- Wildlife -
Design necessary fences and plantings.
- Operation -
Install fences and plantings.

Decision:

Accept the multiple-use recommendation.

Reasons:

Fencing half of ponds will provide an area for nesting cover for waterfowl and shorebirds without restricting livestock use in spring and early summer. We have no way of insuring water will be present in ponds during spring or at any other time. Planting vegetation along edges of ponds will enhance cover.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL 3.5.
2. Accept WL 3.5.

Rationale:

This recommendation will provide for multiple-use management of rangeland resources.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Waterfowl
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-3.6 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Construct brush piles along all wetland-riparian areas used by waterfowl. Construct and install floating islands on the following bodies of water:

- Berger Reservoir
- Horse Creek Reservoir
- Deep Creek Reservoir
- Cottonwood Creek Reservoir
- Bluegill Lake

and at additional sites as they become identified.

Construct and install artificial goose nesting platforms along the following water bodies:

- Snake River
- Salmon Falls Creek
- Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir
- Deep Creek Reservoir
- Murtaugh Lake
- Cottonwood Creek Reservoir
- Shoshone Creek
- Bluegill Lake

RATIONALE:

Nesting materials in the form of brush piles, when correctly constructed and located, provide nesting cover and protection as would a good stand of natural vegetation.

The value of islands to waterfowl is well documented in the literature.¹ Islands possess certain characteristics which make them beneficial to nesting waterfowl. Small islands are frequently free of resident mammals and usually, most mammalian nest predators are discouraged from investigating, consequently, a high nesting security and nesting success results.² Islands increase the shoreline surface-acre ratio which in turn increases the capacity for territorial occupancy by breeding pairs of waterfowl. Following the breeding season, this same additional shoreline provides secure loafing areas for broods plus added shallow areas for brood rearing. Islands properly placed in stockponds are usually

¹ Hammond, M. C. and Mann, G. E. 1956. WATERFOWL NESTING ISLANDS. Journal of Wildlife Management. 20(4):345-352.

Atwater, M. G. 1959. A STUDY OF RENESTING IN CANADA GEESE IN MONTANA. Journal of Wildlife Management. 23(1):91-97.

Keith, L. B. 1961. A STUDY OF WATERFOWL ECOLOGY ON SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA. Wildlife Monograph 6.

Deubbert, H. F. 1966. ISLAND NESTING OF GADWALL IN NORTH DAKOTA. Wilson Bulletin. 78:12-25

Drewien, R. C. and Fredrickson, L. F. 1970. HIGH DENSITY MALLARD NESTING ON A SOUTH DAKOTA ISLAND. Wilson Bulletin. 82:95-96.

Hook, D. L. 1973. PRODUCTION AND HABITAT USE BY CANADA GEESE AT FREEZEOUT LAKE, MONTANA. M. S. Thesis. Montana State University. Bozeman, Montana.

McCarthy, J. J. 1973. RESPONSE OF NESTING CANADA GEESE (*Branta canadensis*) TO ISLANDS IN STOCKDAMS IN NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA. M. S. Thesis. Montana State University. Bozeman, Montana.

Note: 2 Attach additional sheets, if needed

~~Keith, L. B. 1961. A STUDY OF WATERFOWL ECOLOGY ON SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA. Wildlife Monograph 6.~~

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (WFP):

Twin Falls

Activity:

Wildlife - Waterfowl

Overlay Reference:

Step IWL-3.6 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

and at additional sites as they become identified.

Construct several islands in Deep Creek Reservoir.

SUPPORT:

Operations - Construction and installation of brush piles, floating islands and goose nesting platforms.

Wildlife - Coordination with operations on design and location of waterfowl developments.

RATIONALE (cont.):

isolated from cattle grazing at least during the growing season. As a result, they often provide good to excellent nesting cover regardless of the grazing treatment being imposed on the surrounding shoreline. Lack of suitable nesting and rearing habitat is the major limiting factor for local production of Canada geese. These birds respond very favorably to improvements in existing habitat or creation of new habitat of this type and there is still an excellent potential for further increases in goose numbers. Expansion programs and more refined management can result in much greater production than current conditions. Harvests have fluctuated but have shown an increasing trend. Significantly increased demand after 1970 has resulted in a reduction in success rates. Substantial increases in population and harvests over the current level will continue through 1990 under current management levels and habitat trends. A relatively modest increase in demand is expected and success rates will improve slightly.³ Artificial goose nesting platforms will enhance the production opportunity for this species.

³ Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOAL'S, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

1975-1990. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

Note: Attachments on 1230 sheet (see instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name: M-F
Twin Falls
Activity: Wildlife - Waterfowl
Overlay Reference
Step: WL-3.7 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Provide enhanced habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds by fencing and planting riparian vegetation in the following areas:

- (1) Cottonwood Creek Reservoir, one-half mile of fence along the east side
T. 12 S., R. 17 E.
Sec. 2: NE1/4 SE1/4;
- (2) Horse Creek Reservoir, the western edge which lies on public land
T. 16 S., R. 17E.
Sec. 24: SW1/4 NW1/4;
- (3) two Mule Creek Reservoirs
T. 16 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 32: NW1/4NW1/4;
- (4) two ponds along the draw in #4040 Noh Sections allotment
T. 15 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 2 ;
- (5) L & N and Schnitker gravel pits
T. 11 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 35: S1/2 SW1/4;
- (6) isolated pond near Auger Falls
T. 9 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 24: SE1/4 SE1/4;

RATIONALE:

The livestock interaction of primary concern is the impact of grazing on waterfowl nesting cover. Waterfowl nest density and nesting success are both a function of the quantity and quality of nesting cover, and heavy livestock grazing on wetlands impacts the composition and density of native marsh vegetation. Hence, waterfowl production values are severely reduced.¹ Vegetation in certain areas, such as meadows and drainage ways are invariably closely utilized under any stocking rate or system of grazing. Such use may be detrimental to wildlife, aesthetic, recreational or other values. Where this is the case, about the only way to preserve values is to fence the area off from grazing. Reducing livestock or adjusting the grazing season usually will not solve such a problem.² Other than the fencing of streams to exclude livestock, there are few known practical practices which can be implemented to improve or maintain quality habitat for trout.³ Duck harvests have varied depending upon population levels and the number of hunters. Success rates have generally decreased as demand increased. It is projected that under current management levels and habitat trends, essentially this same situation will persist through 1990. Populations and success rates will decrease slightly while

- 1 Molini, W. A. 1977. LIVESTOCK INTERACTIONS WITH UPLAND GAME, NONGAME, AND WATERFOWL IN THE GREAT BASIN. A WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS. Department of Fish and Game. Reno, Nevada.
- 2 Telephone conversation between Bruce Smith, Fisheries Biologist--Rock Springs BLM District and August L. Hormay, Grazing Management Specialist--DSC, on August 11, 1976, concerning rest-rotation grazing management.
- 3 Armour, C. L. 1977. EFFECTS ON DETERIORATED RANGE STREAMS ON TROUT. Bureau of Land Management. Idaho State Office. Boise, Idaho.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

DISCONTINUOUS OR REVERSED

Form 1000-1 (Rev. 11-73)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION--ANALYSIS--DECISION

Name: Twin Falls

Activity: Wildlife - Waterfowl

Overlay Reference
Step: WL-3.7 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

- (7) Loughmiller gravel pits
T. 12 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 1: SW1/4
Sec. 2: E1/2 SE1/4;
- (8) Deep Creek Reservoir
T. 13 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 19: E1/2 SE1/4
Sec. 20: SW1/4
Sec. 29: NE1/4 NW1/4;
- (9) Two Springs Reservoir
T. 16 S., R. 18 E.
Sec. 21: NE1/4 SW 1/4;
- (10) Baker Pit Reservoir
T. 13 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 31: SW1/4 SE1/4;
- (11) #4042 PVGA - Horse Creek--
five ponds on public land in Idaho
and two ponds in Elko District on
public land managed by Burley
District BLM.

RATIONALE (cont.)

demand and harvest will show a slight increase. If existing wetland production habitat can be preserved and nesting and rearing condition enhanced, it should be possible to improve on the current situation and provide increased populations, harvest and success rates through 1990.⁴

SUPPORT:

- Range - Coordination with wildlife in determining where livestock will water.
- Operations - Construction of fences and planting of riparian vegetation.
- Archaeology - Assistance in design of projects to protect archaeological values.

⁴ Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOAL'S, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Waterfowl
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-3.7 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

- Recreation - Assistance in design of projects to enhance the aesthetic value and to benefit recreationalists.
- Watershed - Assistance in design of project to further enhance the watershed.
- Wildlife - Location and design of fences and species list of riparian vegetation to plant. Coordination with range and operations.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with range needs to provide water for livestock. The proposed WPRS acquisition may or may not prevent a conflict with improving waterfowl habitat. The plan calls for developing 40 small wetland ponds and providing 1,050 acres of irrigated cooperative farming areas, 510 acres of permanent irrigated cover and 1,100 acres of dryland areas seeded to wildlife benefiting vegetation.

Proposed mineral developments conflict with the proposed fencing of Loughmiller gravel pits. Waterfowl recurrently nest on reservoirs #(1), (2), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (11). No increases in the waterfowl are discussed in relation to these or the other proposals in this recommendation.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-3.7 -
Provide enhanced habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds by fencing and planting riparian vegetation. Inventory areas and develop a management plan to identify waterfowl needs.

Reasons:

A more complete picture of the existing situation and potential increase in waterfowl and shorebirds production should be identified before developments occur.

Support Needs:

Wildlife -
Inventory areas to determine present nesting use and determine possible future nesting with protection from grazing.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-3.7.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 100-21 April 1975