

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Minerals - Geothermal
Objective Number	M-3

Objective: M-3

Allow and encourage the exploration for and development of geothermal resources within the planning unit.

Rationale:

Considerable exploration and development work is required to adequately establish the commercial potential of the planning unit's geothermal resources. Demands for utilization of warm and hot water geothermal resources will markedly increase as the traditional sources of energy and fuels become more costly.

Geothermal leasing and exploration activities are governed by the regulations published in 43 CFR 3000 and 3200, 30 CFR 270, and the Geothermal Resources Operational Orders of the USGS. These regulations and orders provide for the protection of the environment and other surface resource values.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Minerals - Geothermal
Overlay Reference	Step 1 M-3.1 Step 3

Recommendation: M-3.1

Allow geothermal exploration, leasing, and development on those lands identified on the MFP Step 1 Overlay as being prospectively valuable for geothermal resources for exploration, leasing, and development. Those areas labeled M-3.1a have the highest potential for development.

Support Needs:

Archaeological clearance for areas to be disturbed. Surface Protection Specialist to provide compliance checks.

Rationale:

Alternate energy sources are becoming more economically attractive. In order to carry out U. S. policy to develop these resources, public lands must be left open to leasing, exploration and development.

All geothermal leasing and exploration activities are governed by regulations in 43 CFR and 30 CFR and the standing G.R.O. Orders. These rules state the operational standards, procedures, and environmental protection requirements that are required on all geothermal operations.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with identified sage grouse nesting-brood rearing areas, pheasant habitat areas and deer winter range. The Watershed Recommendation for protection of high erosion susceptible soils conflicts with this recommendation. Range conflicts all relate to disturbance of vegetation and improvements.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept M-3.1 -
Geothermal leasing and exploration activities are regulated by 43 CFR 3000 and 3200, 30 CFR 270 and Geothermal Resources Operational Orders of the USGS stating operational standards, procedures, and environmental protection requirements. An environmental assessment will be needed for Geothermal Leasing in the Twin Falls Planning Unit.

Reasons:

Geothermal resources should be developed if possible. The country is definitely in an energy shortage situation and all sources are going to need to be utilized when they are economically and physically feasible.

*Not done
- probably
not needed
due to current
lack of interest
in geothermal*

*JK
9-14-87*

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Minerals - Saleable
Objective Number	M-4

Objective: M-4

Provide for local needs of sand and gravel, borrow, and other varieties of saleable mineral materials to meet the requirements of the building construction industry, for road construction and maintenance, and for other private non-commercial use.

Rationale:

The population of the planning unit is expected to increase by at least 50% over the next two decades. Demands for sand and gravel and other construction materials will deplete the currently producing deposits. This will necessitate the development of new deposits and alternate sources of material. The expanding population, a potential influx of industrial development, and continued construction and maintenance of county and state roads will require a constant supply of sand and gravel, crushed stone, and other construction materials to meet these needs.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Minerals - Saleable
Overlay Reference	Step 1 M-4.1 Step 3

Recommendation: M-4.1

Establish 20 to 30 acres along Desert Creek near Hollister as a community pit for sand and gravel. Location is T.12S., R.16E., B.M. Section 1: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Establish 80 acres along Foothills Road as a community pit for sand and gravel. Location is T.11S., R.18E., B.M. Section 32: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Establish 40 to 80 acres west of Buhl near Salmon Falls Canyon as a community pit for sand and gravel. Location is in T.9S., R.13E., B.M. Section 25.

Support Needs:

The last site is within a temporary withdrawal to the Idaho National Guard and a Withdrawal Revocation will need to be initiated prior to establishment of the pit.

Rationale:

No community pits within the Twin Falls Planning Unit. Sand and gravel have been taken without authorization from federal lands. Establishing a controlled area for the removal of sand and gravel for construction and maintenance purposes will provide an acceptable and convenient method of selling material and producing income from a location that is environmentally acceptable.

Multiple Use Analysis

Sand and gravel are in short supply in Twin Falls Planning Unit. Sources are available for development but have not been established in useable pits. The establishment of the community pits could neutralize two problems of today. First, it would provide three locations in the county where the public could acquire sand and gravel for a minimal charge. Second, ready access to inexpensive sources of material should reduce the occurrence of unauthorized removal of material from public land. There are no substantial conflicts with other activities, as long as the excavated areas are rehabilitated after use.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Minerals

Overlay Reference

Step 1 M-4.1 Step 3

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept M-4.1 -
Establish community sand and gravel pits at the areas listed in the recommendation.

Support Needs:

Lands -
Initiate a withdrawal revocation of the withdrawn 160 acres in T. 9 S., R. 13 E. Sec. 25.

Minerals -
Technical exams and environmental assessments.

Decision:

Accept those portions of the multiple use recommendation calling for establishment of community sand and gravel pits near Hollister along Desert Creek and west of Buhl near Salmon Falls Canyon.

Reject that portion of the multiple use recommendation calling for a community sand and gravel pit along Foothills Road, locaton R.11 S., R.18 E., B.M. Section 32: E1/2SE1/4

*Buhl sites
still under
military
withdrawal.
MC
9-14-87*

Reasons:

Sand and gravel is needed by the public at increasing rates. We get frequent requests for the materials. The materials are available so they should be made accessible.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject M-4.1.
2. Establish only one or two of the pits.

Rationale:

Allocation of the recommended lands near Hollister and Buhl for a community sand and gravel source will reduce the occurrence of unauthorized removal of these materials from public lands. In addition, this allocation would satisfy an expressed public demand for the need of sand and gravel in these local areas.

The Foothills road site is unsuitable for consideration as a community pit. Gravel size material is overlain by up to two feet of overburden and four feet of cobble which requires crushing prior to its use as gravel. The gravel source itself is unclean, containing a high percentage of clay fines, rendering it unsuitable for community use. Specifics about this are contained in Mineral Report P-33 dated August 14, 1981.

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	Minerals - Saleable
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	M-4.2
Step 3	

Recommendation: M-4.2

Designate those areas indicated as having potential for building stone as building stone extraction areas.

Rationale:

With continued growth in the planning unit, demand for building stone should increase also. Having areas from which stone may be removed may help abate trespass and will provide an acceptable and convenient method of selling material.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with Recreation 1.2, Visual Resources 1.2 and Watershed 6.3.

Recreation 1.2 recommends providing camping facilities at Greys Landing and Norton Bay. The conflict arises if extraction efforts from the existing community pits cause damage to camping facilities. Stone gathering activities are often incorporated with family outings to the Salmon Falls Reservoir.

Visual Resources recommends a Class II visual area for a portion of the areas. The major conflict centers around disturbances visible from the reservoir by boaters. The existing stone extraction areas provide the most potential for impacting the view from the reservoir. No impacts from the existing use have been identified.

Watershed Recommendation 6.3 calls for protection of habitat of Allium anceps. This plant is included on the Idaho sensitive species list. The area included in the south 1/2 of section 8, T. 15 S., R. 15 E. for stone extraction is included in the Allium anceps habitat area.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify 4.2 as follows -
Exclude the SE 1/4 section 8, T. 15 S., R. 15 E. from the recommendation. Designate the remaining areas as future building stone extraction areas.

Reasons:

The habitat for Allium anceps should be protected from undue disturbance. Proper coordination with the recreation specialist to find a different location for the recreation facility will alleviate conflicts between campgrounds and visual intrusions.

*Continuing - may conflict w/ mining claims.
AP
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
Minerals - Saleable

Overlay Reference
Step 1 M-4.3 Step 3

Recommendation: M-4.3

Establish a rockhounding area at Rabbit Springs for collecting of geodes. Location is T.16 S., R.15 E., B.M., Section 2: SW 1/4

Support:

During withdrawal review, retain the existing Public Water Reserves and C & MU Classification.

Rationale:

Collection of geodes and general rockhounding have been occurring on this site for many years. Establishment of an official site will help eliminate abuses by commercial rock collectors and sellers in taking large amounts of these minerals. In addition, the formal recognition of this site will basically be good public relations for the BLM.

Multiple Use Analysis

The Rabbit Springs area is the only identified site in the Planning Unit where significant amounts of rockhounding occur. Upgrading the Rabbit Springs campground has been recommended under Recreation R-1.2. Recreation recommendation R-1.7 supports an official rockhounding area. The Rabbit Springs area also includes a cultural resources site.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Retain the existing water reserves and C & MU Classification. Designate the area as a rockhounding area. Take the necessary management actions to insure the integrity of the cultural resources site.

Reasons:

The Rabbit Springs area is the only known location where specific provision for the rockhounding activity can be made. This rockhounding use will be coordinated with proposed camping, picnicing and RV facilities. All these uses will be coordinated to avoid adverse impacts to the known cultural sites.

OK
9-14-87

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Minerals - Saleable
Overlay Reference	Step 1 M-4.4 Step 3

Recommendation: M-4.4

Reserve material source areas identified on the overlay for anticipated future needs in the Planning Unit.

Rationale:

Providing adequate supplies of mineral materials from designated sites will reduce mineral trespass, save time and minimize the adverse impacts of mineral development, and ease the continuing pressure for mineral development on public lands.

Multiple Use Analysis

Many of the identified material source areas are important areas for other uses also. Six sites are along highways that have recommended visual corridors that preclude gravel pits. Four source areas are in locations that are recommended for campsite development. The material site immediately north of Salmon Falls Dam could impact the proposed natural area. Seven sites are in areas proposed for VRM Class II designation. Two material sites are currently being used as dump sites. Two sites occur within the recommended oil and gas corridor. Four locations have been recommended for disposal for agricultural or exchange purposes. A number of sites occur on isolated tracts that provide important habitat for wildlife. Many source locations are in areas that have been recommended for rangeland treatments to improve grazing. Many cultural resource sites coincide with the proposed material source locations. Extraction of material would seriously damage these cultural sites. Development of sites along the Snake River could impact the Oregon Trail, Cauldron Linn, Dry Town and a portion of the Porpose Dry Cataract National Natural Landmark.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Utilize existing material sites. Maintain the other identified locations in their current condition until demand warrants their development. Development of each new site will require an environmental assessment and technical examination. The relative values of a material pit and other alternative uses can be better evaluated at that time.

Reasons:

Material sources are limited in Twin Falls County. The development of gravel pits and other material sites is important for road maintenance and other local needs. Material extraction has the potential of seriously impacting many other resources. In order to mitigate these potential problems, adequate stipulations will be needed for each development.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

OK
MC
9/14/87