

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-3.8 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Enhance waterfowl habitat by making the following improvements:

- (1) enlarge the Rock Cabin Spring enclosure
T.16 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 21: SE1/4 NE1/4
to at least two acres, down the draw. Construct small potholes within the enlarged enclosure;
- (2) construct small potholes in the Sagehen Meadow wildlife enclosure
T. 16 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 28: NE1/4 NE1/4, NW1/4 NE1/4;
- (3) retain the isolated parcels of public land around Murtaugh Lake in public ownership; identify boundaries, settle trespasses, construct fences and manage for waterfowl.

SUPPORT:

- Operations - Construction of fences and of pothole blasting.
- Lands - Trespass settlement on public land around Murtaugh Lake.
- Recreation - Assistance in design of projects to enhance the aesthetic value and to benefit recreationalists.
- Watershed - Assistance in design of projects to further enhance the watershed.
- Archaeology - Assistance in design of projects to protect archaeological values.
- Wildlife - Coordination with lands and with range on location and design of projects.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.

Instructions on reverse

RATIONALE:

Water is an essential element to all kinds of waterfowl. Dabbling ducks prefer shallow ponds for feeding. Courting, pairing and mating activities are generally performed on small open-water areas. Mating habitat is usually one or several small, shallow, open water ponds in fields, pastures, or marshy lands. Water depths of such ponds are generally less than six inches deep and may disappear within several weeks. A shallow pond with extensive vegetation is preferred habitat for rearing broods.

Murtaugh Lake is an important area for waterfowl, especially geese. Existing public land adjacent to the lake needs to be retained in public ownership and enhanced for geese since a lack of suitable nesting and rearing habitat is the major limiting factor for local production of Canada geese.

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.8 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation draws support from cultural resource which also proposed enlarging the Rock Cabin enclosure to include more of the existing cultural site and set up studies to monitor the effects of cattle use on cultural resources. The proposed potholes could conflict with known archaeological sites.

The recommendation to retain Murtaugh Lake parcels conflicts with an existing R & PP Lease issued to Twin Falls County for construction of a park. The park has been completed and the county now has the option of purchasing this parcel. The level of development and use of this parcel severely limits its importance for waterfowl.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reasons:

Modify WL-3.8 as follows -
Enhance waterfowl habitat by making the following improvements.

Increasing the size of the Rock Cabin enclosure and adding several potholes will increase waterfowl production while helping other wildlife species. Constructing potholes in the Sagehen Meadow enclosure will provide habitat for more waterfowl nesting. The parcel of public land not carried forward from the MFP I Recommendation has already been developed for recreation use and is of limited value for waterfowl production. The isolated areas are more well suited to waterfowl.

- (1) enlarge the Rock Cabin Spring enclosure
T. 16 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 21: SE1/4 NE1/4
to at least two acres, down the draw. Construct small potholes within the enclosure.
- (2) Construct small potholes in the Sagehen Meadow wildlife enclosure
T. 16 S., R. 16 E.
Sec. 28: NE1/4 NE1/4,
NW1/4 NE1/4
- (3) Retain parcels of land located at the following location on Murtaugh Lake:
R. 11 S., R. 20 E.
Sec. 18: W 1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4
Sec. 17: S 1/2 S 1/2 SE1/4
Identify boundaries, settle trespasses, construct fences and manage for waterfowl.

Support Needs:

Same as MFP 1 Recommendation.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-3.8.
2. Accept WL-3.8.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (BFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Fisheries
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-3.10 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Develop and implement intensive livestock grazing management systems along all streams, reservoirs and wetland-riparian areas to improve water quality and fisheries and habitat condition classes. Fence approximately 8 miles along portions of the following streams and reservoirs to improve fishery habitat through the abatement of livestock grazing:

McMullen Creek
Salmon Falls Creek
Shoshone Creek
Horse Creek Reservoir

Fence additional areas as the need becomes identified.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Implementation of grazing systems. Coordination with wildlife in fencing.
- Archaeology - Assistance in design of fences to protect cultural values.
- Watershed - Assistance in fence locations.
- Recreation - Assistance in fence layout to provide pleasing aesthetic values and for recreational access.

RATIONALE:

IDFG surveys have determined that approximately 44 percent of both resident and nonresident anglers in Idaho prefer fishing for trout species in streams. An estimated 1,800,000 fisherman days or 48 percent of the state total are expended in this pursuit.¹

The restriction of livestock use from a riparian zone will improve aquatic-riparian habitat. This improvement can be measured via reduced sedimentation, increase in streambank cover, etc. These systems must include periods of rest to improve vegetative cover. If grazing systems are not practical, fencing appears to be the only available alternative to protect the streams. Where grazing use is detrimental to wildlife, aesthetic, recreational or other values, about the only way to preserve values is to fence the area off from grazing.² These areas proposed for fencing have high fishery value and/or potential. Fencing will enable streamside cover to improve and the sediment load in the streams will be reduced to some extent. The stream will narrow up and deepen. The end result will be cooler, cleaner water with better cover for the fish. 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 Areas recognized as high quality fishery and/or spawning sites should continue to be managed under existing practices.

¹ Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

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 OF DETERIORATED RANGE STREAMS ON TROUT. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office. Boise, Idaho.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form BLM-11 April 1973

UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name: <i>MFP</i>
Twin Falls
Agency Wildlife - Waterfowl
Overlay Reference Step <i>WL-3.9</i> Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Designate several upland feeding fields through cooperative farm agreements, where cultivated grains will be available for waterfowl. Establish these areas adjacent to Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir, Deep Creek Reservoir and other areas as they become identified.

SUPPORT:

Recreation - Assistance in formulation of agreements to provide non-consumptive and consumptive recreational values.

Watershed - Assistance in formulation of agreements to prevent erosion.

Wildlife - Coordination and agreements with adjacent landowners in implementation of this recommendation.

RATIONALE:

The provision of upland feeding areas near waterfowl areas through cooperative farm agreements would not only improve, but expand waterfowl habitat. Upland feeding on domestic grains, seasonally, is very important. Ducks will fly several miles to upland fields where cultivated grains are available. Goose pastures (green forage containing clovers and/or alfalfa), located near nesting cover, are essential for successful production areas. Various cultivated grains such as wheat, corn, rice, barley, oats, etc. are becoming ever more important as food for waterfowl along migration paths and on wintering grounds.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with existing grazing use in the areas identified. The majority of this area is seeded to crested wheatgrass. None of the public land in the area is currently being farmed. Approximately 80 acres of public land located in the recommendation area would be Class III agricultural land if water were applied. Approximately 60 acres would be Class II agricultural land if water were applied. The remainder of the public land shown in the recommendation is not suitable for agricultural development.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse

Form BLM-1, April 1975

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.10 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

Operations - Construction of fences.
Wildlife - Location and design of fences. Coordination with range and operations.

RATIONALE (cont.):

The BLM policy on "Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management," Federal Register, Volume 45, Number 25, February 5, 1980, states that "riparian areas will get protection necessary to maintain and restore habitat cover and diversity, etc."

Multiple Use Analysis

The portion of this recommendation dealing with fencing McMullen and Shoshone Creek conflicts with existing livestock use which depends upon water from these streams. Watershed recommendations support fencing of these streams as do visual resource recommendations. Range management recommendations support development and implementation of grazing systems.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify WL-3.10 as follows -
Develop and implement intensive livestock grazing management systems to improve water quality and fisheries and habitat condition classes in allotments along McMullen Creek, Salmon Falls Creek, Shoshone Creek and Horse Creek Reservoir. Install enclosures on selected areas and compare the ungrazed to grazed areas. If there is no response to grazing systems, fence as necessary to improve condition class. Fence additional areas as the need becomes identified.

Reasons:

The choice of using intensive management initially is related to the costs involved in fencing and the aesthetics of fences along streams. A monitoring plan will determine the effectiveness of intensive grazing management toward improving riparian habitat. If the intensive management systems do not improve habitat condition, fencing should be initiated.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1973)

UNITED STATES
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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name: <i>MFD</i> Twin Falls
Agency: Wildlife - Fisheries
Overlay Reference Step 1 <i>WL-3.11</i> Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: *(Decision)*

Improve bank stabilization and fisheries habitat along the following streams by planting willows, cottonwoods, grasses, roses, etc. where vegetation is scarce or lacking or by installing rip-rap, brush, log barriers or drop logs, etc. along the banks and by installing instream structures such as k-dams, logdams, trash catchers, digger logs, etc. in:

McMullen Creek
Shoshone Creek
Salmon Falls Creek
Fifth Fork of Rock Creek
Horse Creek Reservoir
Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir

Improve bank stabilization and fisheries habitat along additional water bodies as they become identified.

SUPPORT:

- Operations - Construction, installation and planting of various bank stabilization projects.
- Watershed - Assistance with bank stabilization projects for watershed protection.
- Recreation - Assistance in projects to provide pleasing aesthetic values and for the benefit of fishermen.
- Wildlife - Design and location of bank stabilization projects. Coordination with operations in implementation.

RATIONALE:

Improvements would enhance water quality, pool quality (depth/size), spawning gravels (silt/sediments), streambank cover stability (soil/vegetation) and fisheries survival and productivity. The vegetation will provide very important shade to the stream. This shade will lower the water temperature and thus result in improved fishery habitat. The overhanging willows will also serve as important cover for the fish. The structures along the bank will help to control livestock use along the shoreline and reduce sediment load into the stream. The instream structures will improve instream cover for the fish by forming deeper pools on the downstream side of the structure.

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Fisheries
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-3.12 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Improve fisheries habitat in the following streams in the following ways:

- (1) dredge Horse Creek Reservoir to make it deeper;
- (2) maintain the fish barrier in Upper Salmon Falls Creek;
- (3) poison the squawfish in Shoshone Creek and Salmon Falls Creek with "Squawtoxin;"
- (4) reduce and abate the sediment from agricultural and rangeland runoffs entering lower Salmon Falls Creek from public land from Lilly Grade to the Snake River.

SUPPORT:

- Watershed - Assistance in recommended projects to benefit watershed.
- Recreation - Assistance in recommended projects to enhance aesthetic values and improve recreational values.
- Operations - Construction and installation of projects.
- IDFG - Poisoning of squawfish with "Squawtoxin."
- Wildlife - Design and location of projects. Coordination with operations and IDFG.

RATIONALE:

Horse Creek Reservoir should be made deeper by dredging via a drag line. This would help to prevent winter kills and kills due to a low draw down if a drought should ever occur again.

The fish barrier should be maintained so as to prohibit the movement of trash fish from Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir upstream into Shoshone Creek. Maintenance of the fish barrier would help to maintain the integrity of the fisheries in Shoshone Creek.

The squawfish is an aggressive predator of trout. They not only eat small trout, but prey heavily upon the eggs and fry (or young). Squawtoxin is 90 percent restricted to squawfish. It may kill some of the other trash fish, but will not bother the game fish. This project should be done in full cooperation with IDFG.

The sediment from agricultural and rangeland runoffs entering Salmon Falls Creek needs to be abated so as to reduce the sediment load entering Salmon Falls Creek. By reducing this additional sediment load, the water quality, and hence fisheries habitat, would improve.

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Fisheries
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-3.13 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Provide habitat for the sculpin found in Dry Creek by controlling or abating the introduction of wastewater into Dry Creek.

SUPPORT:

- Watershed - Assistance in controlling or abating the wastewater outfall to improve water quality.
- Recreation - Assistance in improving Dry Creek to make it a trout fishery for sportsmen.
- IDFG - Identification of the sculpin found in Dry Creek.
- Wildlife - Determination of exact location (public or private land) of wastewater outfall and then abatement of wastewater into Dry Creek.

RATIONALE:

There are two endemic species of scuplins in Idaho, one of which is currently found in Riley and Billingsly creeks in the Hagerman Valley and at several springs along the Snake River (Box Canyon, Blue Heart Springs, etc.). This is the Shoshone sculpin, a "sensitive" species. The sculpin which was found in Dry Creek should be identified by IDFG to determine if it may-in-fact also be a "sensitive" species. If it is found to be "sensitive," the habitat must be improved to a good or excellent condition class. The wastewater outfall should be abated to improve the current fisheries habitat not only for the possibility of the Shoshone sculpin residing in the creek, but also for the trout fishery potential which exists for Dry Creek.

Multiple Use Analysis

The Shoshone sculpin is considered a "sensitive" species in Idaho. The IDFG conducted a stream survey for the BLM during the summer of 1979. No game fish were collected, but seven scuplins were found. At that time, the scuplins were not identified to species. Since the Shoshone sculpin has been found in creeks coming into the Snake River, it is important to determine the specific species of the sculpin in Dry Creek. It is important to control or abate the introduction of wastewater into Dry Creek not only for the Shoshone sculpin, if in fact it does exist, but also for the trout fishery potential which exists. It is important that the Soil Conservation Service become involved in the abatement of waste water into Dry Creek. The IDFG supports this habitat improvement. The minerals recommendation M-4.4 could be implemented only if it does not adversely affect the fisheries.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1000-21 Apr 1977