

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)  
Twin Falls

Activity  
Recreation Management

Overlay Reference C.8

Step 1 R-1.9 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.9:

Develop facilities for snowplay, cross-country skiing, hiking/backpacking, and horseback riding activities. Include the following:

- 1) Hiking and horseback riding trails from the Nevada border to Balanced Rock on Salmon Falls Creek and on Shoshone Creek with appropriate access points.
- 2) Develop a system of trails for cross-country skiing, hiking, and horseback riding in the foothills area which will tie into trails and facilities on the Sawtooth National Forest's Cassia Division (South Hills).
- 3) Designate areas suitable for winter use, either for snowplay or cross-country skiing.
- 4) Provide facilities - parking, loading ramps, toilet facilities, trash receptacles, and water sources (where appropriate) - at trailheads as needed. And parking areas at sites identified for snowplay activities.
- 5) Restrict vehicular use in snowplay areas and on trails where conflicts are occurring and cannot otherwise be resolved.

Support Needs:

District Operations - Engineer, Equipment Operator for trail and trailhead layout and design and construction.

Other - Recreation Aide (summer) for maintenance and use monitoring.

Rationale:

Participation rates in these activities are growing at a significant rate. Though participation on public lands in the planning unit is low, much of this can be attributed to a lack of facilities. By providing additional facilities, the Bureau is attempting to provide an adequate variety and supply of outdoor recreation uses on the public lands commensurate with public needs.

Though the income generated from these activities is small, public demand for such facilities will always exist.

Interest in utilizing public lands for these activities has recently surfaced, particularly for cross-country skiing trails. Identified as an area where additional facilities are needed (SCORP), inquiries as to availability of trails on public land (for cross-country skiing) have been received at this office from instructors at the College of Southern Idaho.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Step 1 R-1.9 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Trail development results in primary and secondary impacts. Primary impacts are centered around actual trail and facility construction. These concerns are watershed and soil oriented and can be mitigated with proper trail design and construction. Secondary impacts concern the additional use of areas due to new trails. Additional use along the Salmon Falls Canyon Rim could result in serious damage to cultural resource sites. Nesting raptors in that area could also be adversely affected.

*(Decision)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.9 -  
Do not develop the recommended trail along Salmon Falls Creek. Develop a trail system in the South Hills in conjunction with Forest Service as needed. Use existing roads and trails as a base for the system. Provide trailhead facilities where appropriate. Provide for winter recreation as recommended.

Reasons:

Generally, small benefit would be obtained from expenditures for trail development on public land in Twin Falls County. The South Hills area, due to its proximity to Twin Falls, would receive enough use to warrant development of a trail system. The potential for winter recreation on public land is questionable due to low snow levels. Areas of public land may be well suited as instruction areas for beginning cross-country skiers.

Support Needs:

District Operations -  
Assist in trail developments and facility constructions.

RA & Resource Staff Specialists -  
Develop plans and environmental assessments for proposed facilities when they become identified.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept R-1.9 in full.
2. Reject R-1.9 in full.
3. Disregard WL-4.2 and CRM-1.9.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation Management
Overlay Reference Unit Wide	Step 1 R-1.10 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.10:

Designate all public lands in the Twin Falls Planning Unit as open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicle use.

Support Needs:

District Resources or Area Staff - Resource specialists (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, range conservationist, etc.) to provide input in developing the designation plan.

Rationale:

All public lands are to be designated for ORV use by 1987 (E.O. 11644 and 11989 and regulations contained in 43 CFR 8340). ORV recreation is a legitimate use of public lands and can be better managed to protect other resource values when designations are implemented and enforced.

Off-road vehicle use on public land is of great concern to the citizens of Twin Falls County. Of the 50 citizens interviewed to gather information for the PAA, 25 (50%) expressed the opinion that ORV use should be controlled by restricting use to certain areas. Several of the issue statements and responses involved ORV use. On a statement dealing specifically with ORV use on public lands, 45 of the 57 respondents (80%) supported placing restrictions on ORV use. In response to a statement on banning livestock and ORV use from Salmon Falls Canyon, approximately 45% of the respondents favored ORV use, either singly or with grazing. Response to a statement concerning watershed (water quality/quantity), nearly one-third of those responding felt that uses such as livestock grazing and ORV use should not be reduced in order to improve watershed conditions.

The interest in and use of public lands for ORV recreation is obviously present in Twin Falls County as can be noted by the response supporting such use, but there is also an obvious concern over possible damage to other resources by ORV use which indicates that better control over the activity may be desirable.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Twin Falls

Activity  
Recreation

Overlay Reference  
Step R-1.10 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Off-road vehicles are used by a variety of public land users. Many different activities involve utilization of ORVs. High ORV use can cause damage to watershed, wildlife and cultural resource values. Few high use areas occur in the Planning Unit. The primary high use area is the foothills area of the South Hills. ORV use has damaged 38% of the cultural resource sites that are accessible to vehicles.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept R-1.10 -

Designate the foothills area so that ORV use is allowed on existing roads and trails. Implement a spring closure in this area. Make the closure compatible with the adjacent Forest Service closure. Limit ORV use to existing roads and trails in mule deer critical winter range from November 1 to April 30. Limit use to existing roads and trails in the critical mule deer fawning range from April 15 to June 15. During March 15 to June 15, limit ORV use to existing roads and trails in sage grouse nesting and strutting grounds. Close the sage grouse critical winter range to snowmobiles. Except for the limitations that have been listed, designate the public land in the Planning Unit as open to off-road vehicle use. Provide adequate monitoring of ORV use so that needed revisions in the designations can be identified and implemented.

Support Needs:

District & Area Resource Specialists -  
Provide input for environmental assessment of designation plan.

Reasons:

Soil erosion problems are occurring in the foothills area due to ORV use. A spring closure will help curb many of these problems. Limitations on ORV use in critical wildlife habitat will help protect mule deer and sage grouse during critical times of their life cycle. Additional restrictions are not warranted at this time.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject R-1.10.
2. Designate entire planning unit as open.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Twin Falls

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-1.10 Step 3

Recreation Aide (summer) -  
Monitoring for ORV use.

3. Designate area between powerline and Salmon Falls Creek as limited to existing roads and trails (Accept CRM-1.5, WL-4.2).
4. Limit ORV use in sage grouse nesting and strutting areas (Accept WL-2.12).

Decision:

Modify multiple-use recommendation to finalize the Twin Falls Off-Road Vehicle Designation Plan based on the Step 2 recommendations. Complete the designation plan and an EA through public review as needed (local motorcycle and 4-wheel clubs).

Also change the ORV limitation in mule deer critical winter range from the date November 1 to November 15.

Rationale:

All public lands must be designated as "Open", "Limited", or "Closed" to ORV use by 1987. A designation plan and an EA best analyze and document this process. The purpose is to provide for continued ORV use in a manner compatible with other resource values, primarily critical wildlife habitat, watershed and cultural values.

The November date is changed to coincide with current hunting seasons and wildlife recommendations.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Recreation Management

Overlay Reference C.8

Step 1 R-1.11 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.11:

In conjunction with the designation of public lands for ORV use, develop the following vehicular recreation facilities:

- 1) Trails and roads to accommodate needs of motorcyclists, snowmobilers, and four-wheel drive enthusiasts. Specific areas for trail development (or maintenance) include:
  - a) South Hills (McMullen Creek, N. Cottonwood Creek, etc.);
  - b) Salmon Falls Canyon Rim or Creek;
  - c) Union Pacific Railroad bed; and
  - d) Mule Creek.
- 2) Provide facilities - parking, loading ramps, toilet facilities, trash receptacles, and water source (where appropriate) - at trailheads as needed.
- 3) ORV use parks (motorcycles, four-wheel drives, dune buggies) for intensive use opportunities. Specific areas for such development include:
  - a) The Buhl Dunes area; and
  - b) The Indian Springs use area (just off the "Foothills" Road) - T. 12 S., R. 18 E., Sec. 4, 9.

In layout and design of these facilities, locations should be selected for maximum user enjoyment while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. Consideration should be given to characteristics such as degree of difficulty, user aesthetics, proximity to population centers, safety, etc. Local user groups should be consulted during all phases of planning as should other agencies (e.g., USFS) involved with providing recreation trails.

Rationale:

Recreational use of public lands by various types of off-road vehicles is growing at a rapid pace. The popularity of vehicles such as snowmobiles, motorcycles, and four-wheel drives has grown significantly in the recent past, though higher equipment and energy costs are tempering this growth.

As indicated in the rationale for Recreation Recommendation R-1.10, there is considerable concern - both in support of and about - ORV use on public lands in Twin Falls County. An additional statement included in the issues survey related to the incompatibility of various recreational activities (e.g., horseback riding and ORV use) and recreational activity with other non-recreational uses. This statement considered the need for designating certain areas of public land for specific uses (exclusive use areas such as an ORV park where other recreational uses would not be allowed). Nearly 54% agreed with this statement, while less than 1/3 of the respondents disagreed.

The demand for facilities for ORV use is obviously present and, even though income generated from the activity is relatively small, should be provided for. As with most recreational activities, the provision of opportunities to participate meets a psychological and social need rather than an economic need.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
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Overlay Reference	C.3
Step 1 R-1.11	Step 3

Support Needs:

- State Office - Landscape Architect to assist in layout and design of ORV use parks to minimize visual impacts.
- District Operations - Engineer for layout and design of trails, use parks, etc. Equipment Operators for construction.
- District Resources or Area Staff - Landscape Architect for layout and design. Other resource specialists to identify problems with other resources.

Multiple Use Analysis

Development of ORV trails has been identified as a conflict with watershed, wildlife and cultural resource values. Initial conflicts result from actual trail and facility developments while secondary impacts result from increased use due to provision of the trails. Multiple use trails that accommodate hikers and horseback riders could also provide for motorcycle riders. Another consideration is that existing roads and trails provide vehicle access to almost the entire Planning Unit.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.11 -  
Do not develop additional trails until warranted by user demand. Provide trailhead facilities as needed. Keep the Buhl Dunes area and Indian Springs area available for use as ORV parks. Provide trail corrections as needed.

Reasons:

The demand for additional ORV developments has not been expressed at this time. Demand is low due primarily to poor visual aesthetics of the public land within the Planning Unit in comparison to other areas of use. As land allocations are made, locations for motocross tracks and other intensive ORV uses become limited. The Buhl Dunes and Indian Springs areas are both well suited for this type of use.

Support Needs:

District Realty Specialist -  
Assist in development of R&PP lease agreement with Twin Falls County for ORV park areas.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept R-1.11 in full.
2. Reject R-1.11 in full.
3. Disregard WL-4.2 and CRM-1.9.
4. Disregard WS-2.1, 2.4 and 2.6.

Recreation aide (summer) -  
Maintenance and use monitoring.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Form 100-101, April 1975

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Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-1.11 Step 3

Decision:

Accept Step 2 multiple-use recommendation. Modify to include monitoring studies to determine the level of ORV use that should be accommodated.

OK  
ML  
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Rationale:

Public demand and ORV funding have not reached a level where intensive development and facilities should be initiated. Monitoring the existing ORV demand and impact of the resources will provide data to base future management.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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