

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Twin Falls

Wildlife - Aquatics

Objective Number  
WL-3

OBJECTIVES:

Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitats for furbearers, waterfowl, shorebirds, and game fish.

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.

Wetland and/or riparian habitats are extremely important to this group of wildlife and fishery species. IDFG in their Goals, Objectives and Policies 1975-1990 book fully support the protection of wetland-riparian habitats. Executive Order 11900, Protection of Wetlands are intended to improve the protection and management of wetland and riparian areas of BLM-administered lands. These procedures are part of the BLM manual section 6740 and were effective as of October 1, 1979.

The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) indicates that by 1995 the demand for fisherman days on public land in the Planning Unit will be 4,720 days for streams and 32,800 days for reservoir fishing. In other words, overall fisherman days per mile on public land habitat will increase by 49 percent for stream fishing and 60 percent for reservoir fishing over the current level.

In 1995, it is estimated that the gross value of fisherman days attributable to public land habitats in the Planning Unit will be \$767,944.00 for stream fishing and \$5,336,560.00 for reservoir fishing.

The total economic value for furbearing species has increased from \$3,620.31 in 1970-1971 to \$86,256.97 in 1978-1979. This value will continue to increase.

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.

2. Assumptions.

a. Increasing recognition and use of ecosystem concepts in the planning, use, and development of the public lands will result in the production of greater varieties and populations of wildlife.

b. Air, water, and noise pollution abatement programs and improved technology will result in improved wildlife habitat.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name *Mt/P*  
Twin Falls

Activity  
Wildlife - Wetland-Riparian

Overlay Reference Areas  
Step WL-3.1 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Retain in public ownership all public land adjacent to and including all water bodies and wetland-riparian areas. Improve 28 acres of wetland-riparian habitat currently in poor condition and 309 acres currently in fair condition to good and excellent condition. Maintain current good and excellent condition wetland-riparian areas in these classes. Prohibit surface occupancy or road development within 100 feet of all wetland-riparian areas. Expand wetland-riparian areas by diverting runoff water from troughs and piping water from springs into protected areas.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Development and implementation of intensive livestock grazing systems or abatement of grazing in wetland-riparian areas to improve the condition class.
- Lands - Retention of all lands adjacent to and including water bodies and wetland-riparian areas.
- Operations - Construction of wetland-riparian expansion areas.

RATIONALE:

Executive Order, (EO) 11990, Protection of Wetlands, are intended to improve the protection and management of wetland and riparian areas on BLM-administered lands. BLM manual section 6740.06E states to retain under BLM administration and ownership all wetland and riparian habitats.

Wetland-riparian habitats are critical wildlife areas as well as conflict areas with livestock. Where these areas are currently in poor and fair condition, they need to be improved to good and excellent. In order to improve some of these areas, livestock grazing needs to be abated. "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."<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> According to a Twin Falls County Survey, 32.1 percent of the people surveyed indicated that they thought riparian areas should be fenced of to protect wildlife habitat.<sup>3</sup> BLM manual

- 1 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.
- 2 Armour, C. L. 1977. EFFECTS OF DETERIORATED RANGE STREAMS ON TROUT. Bureau of Land Management. Idaho State Office. Boise, Idaho.
- 3 Burley District Memo. 1607. RESULTS OF THE TWIN FALLS SURVEY. November 19, 1980.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (M-P):

Twin Falls

Agency:

Wildlife - Wetland-Riparian

Geology Reference Areas

Step IWL-3.1 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

Archaeology - Assistance in protection of wetland-riparian areas for cultural resource protection.

Recreation - Assistance in protection of wetland-riparian areas for recreational use.

Watershed - Assistance in protection of wetland-riparian areas for watershed benefits.

Wildlife - Location of improvement and expansion areas. Coordination with other resources on issues concerning wetland-riparian areas.

RATIONALE (cont.):

section 6740.22 states to establish buffer strips to protect wetland-riparian areas from disturbance.

Wetland-riparian areas support many forms of wildlife, several of which are "sensitive" species. BLM manual section 6740--Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management should be consulted before any type of action is taken involving any wetland or riparian area.<sup>3</sup>

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation could conflict with lands recommendations relating to land disposal if these lands include riparian areas or bodies of water. Conflicts with minerals center around possible mineral activity within 100 feet of wetland-riparian areas. Proposed recreation roads and campgrounds within 100 feet of wetland-riparian areas also conflicts with this recommendation. Season-long grazing use of riparian areas in fair or poor condition would also conflict with this recommendation. The recommendation gives the option of intensive management or fencing to improve wetland-riparian areas.

*(Decision)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- Modify 3.1 as follows -
1. Retain in public ownership on all public lands adjacent to and including all water bodies and wetland-riparian areas.
  2. Improve 28 acres of wetland-riparian habitat in poor condition and 309 acres in fair condition by

Reasons:

Wetland-Riparian habitat areas are critical wildlife areas and should be managed and protected as such. BLM Manual section 6740.06E states that all wetland and riparian habitats should be retained under BLM administration and ownership. Improvement of riparian areas along Shoshone and

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Continued on reverse)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.1 Step 3

- implementing grazing systems which provide periodic deferrment from grazing. Establish exclosures along riparian areas on Shoshone and McMullen Creek to monitor the effects of grazing systems on riparian vegetation. If riparian areas do not begin to respond to grazing treatments within 5 years, consider reducing livestock use in riparian areas by fencing or other means.
3. Maintain current good and excellent condition wetland-riparian areas in these classes.
  4. Design new roads and facilities in a manner which will not damage riparian areas.
  5. Expand wetland-riparian areas by diverting runoff water from troughs and piping water from springs into protected areas.

Salmon Falls Creek will improve values for wildlife, fisheries, recreation and visual resources. The option of using intensive management initially is related to 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. The original 100 foot buffer strip was modified because each riparian area is unique and requires individual attention. Expansion of wetland-riparian areas will improve wildlife habitat in the Planning Unit and reduce livestock trampling of soils around watering areas.

Support Needs:

Range -  
Help to set up monitoring plan to determine affects of intense live-stock management systems on riparian habitat.

Wildlife -  
Help set up monitoring plan to determine affects of intensive live-stock management systems on riparian habitat.

Operations -  
Construction of wetland-riparian expansion areas.

Archaeologist -  
Cultural examinations of exclosure sites.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Fence all riparian areas.
2. Reject WL-3.1.

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 (M/P)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Furbearers
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-3.2 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Predator control will be allowed only on those areas where there is documented evidence of extreme depredation on domestic livestock and/or wildlife. See the URA Step III wildlife habitat overlay entitled "A.8. Predator Damage Control."

SUPPORT:

- Range - Identification of problem areas between predators and livestock.
- Recreation - Coordinate sport hunting areas with range and wildlife.
- Wildlife - Coordination with range and USFWS on predator control problem areas.

RATIONALE:

Wanton killing of predators usually does very little to solve depredation problems. Predator control, if directed to problem areas, can reduce specific problems. Presently, we do not have any information that indicates that predators, primarily coyotes, pose any serious threat to other wildlife populations.

The sport hunting of predators has added substantial amounts of money into the local and/or regional economy. Any form of predator control reduces the opportunity for sport hunting success.

Multiple Use Analysis

Existing predator control programs are carried out by the Fish and Wildlife Service and sport hunters. The BLM is consulted prior to actual field operations and determines: (1) if predator control is justified; (2) the method of control (trapping, aerial gunning, etc.); and (3) the time of control. This information, together with actual predation kills of livestock documented by the operator, forms the basis for a decision to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to proceed.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (AFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Furbearers
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-3.3 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Improve furbearer habitat by implementing the following recommendations:

- (1) modify existing and install future water developments so that water is readily available at ground level to all furbearers;
- (2) designate leave areas (i.e. islands of brush) in all areas where land treatments are conducted to provide and maximize the "edge" effect. Protect present native vegetative communities;
- (3) prevent a loss of habitat from excessive reduction of stream flow or draw downs of any water source from their present levels. Avert the future channelization of water courses. Maintain riparian habitat in optimum condition.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Preparation of EA's for range land treatment projects.
- Watershed - Assistance in preservation of current stream flow levels and protection of existing water courses.
- Operations - Layout of leave areas in land treatment projects. Improvements on water developments.
- Recreation - Assistance in layout of projects to provide pleasing aesthetic values.
- Wildlife - Designation of leave areas. Coordination with range watershed and operations.

RATIONALE:

The Wildlife Program Activity Policy Statement 1603.12D4b states that one of the major principles and standards of the wildlife program activity is to consider the welfare and habitat requirements of all wildlife, including predacious animals, in programs affecting the public lands.

All furbearers are or can be associated with riparian habitats. Water is a necessity for all furbearers. For several, it is an absolute requirement. IDFG fully supports the protection of riparian habitat. They state that riparian habitat is extremely important to the maintenance of quite a few furbearing species.<sup>1</sup> The river otter, a "sensitive" species, are well adapted to an aquatic existence and are seldom found far from water.

Table 8 in the wildlife portion of the Twin Falls URA Step III shows the number of animals taken, the average pelt worth and total economic value of furbearers/predators in Twin Falls County. The total economic value for all species listed increased from \$3,620.31 in 1970-1971 to \$86,256.97 in 1978-1979. This shows that the demand for furbearers is ever-increasing. In order to meet the continuing demand the furbearer habitat must be maintained in optimum condition in order to support the increase in furbearer populations. Habitat for several furbearer species, which have been designated as "sensitive," must be enhanced.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-3.3 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with minerals recommendations for exploration and development of mineral resources, if riparian areas would be damaged. Lands conflicts are based on areas being developed for agricultural production. Fire F-1.3, F-1.4 and F-1.5 may conflict with this recommendation in that the "edge" would be destroyed. In most cases, fire can be expected to increase "edge" by burning in irregular patterns. Range treatment proposals that include treating blocks of land conflict with the recommendation to leave islands of brush and maximize edge effects. The minimum stream flow recommendation is unnecessary as water from streams crossing public land is diverted below public land. The water in Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir is controlled by the Salmon River Canal Company and therefore, we do not have control over draw down. Economics of pumping prevent drawing water from Salmon Falls Creek below the dam on public land.

*(Reason)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reason:

Modify WL-3.3 as follows -

Improve furbearer habitat by implementing the following recommendations.

- (1) Modify selected existing and future water developments so that water is available at ground level to furbearers and other wildlife species. Areas with available water deficiencies will be identified prior to modification.
- (2) Designate leave areas (i.e. islands of brush) in all areas where land treatments are conducted to provide "edge effect." Protect present native vegetative communities.
- (3) Avert the future channelization of water courses on public land. Maintain riparian habitat in optimum condition.

Before major expenditures are made for modification of existing facilities, the need for such modifications needs to be shown. Some areas are more likely to have an abundance of available water without the need for modification. Designation of leave areas in land treatment projects will increase the "edge" and the protection of native vegetative communities will optimize wildlife habitat. Channelization of streams has been proven to increase erosion and reduce productivity of streambanks.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Acquire the following parcels of land for the benefit of waterfowl, shorebirds, fisheries and other water oriented and wildlife species.

T. 12 S., R. 17 E. Cottonwood Creek  
Sec. 2: NE1/4, W1/2 SE1/4 Reservoir

T. 13 S., R. 16 E. Deep Creek  
Sec. 29: W1/2 NE1/4 Reservoir

T. 16 S., R. 16 E. Shoshone Creek  
Sec. 24: N1/2 NE1/4

T. 12 S., R. 18 E. South Hills-  
Sec. 8: W1/2 E1/2 McMullen Creek  
Sec 17: NE1/4 NW1/4,  
NW1/4 NE1/4

T. 16 S., R. 17 E. Horse Creek  
Sec. 24: SE1/4 NW1/4 Reservoir

T. 12 S., R. 18 E. Fifth Fork of  
Sec. 25: SW1/4 SW1/4 Rock Creek  
Sec. 36: W1/2 NW1/4

Protect these wetland-riparian areas after acquisition.

SUPPORT:

Lands - Preparation of land report and EA for land acquisition.

Archaeology - Assistance in acquisition for protection of cultural resources.

Recreation - Assistance in acquisition for the benefit for hunter and fisherman days.

Watershed - Assistance in acquisition for watershed benefits.

Wildlife - Assistance in acquisition.

RATIONALE:

Acquisition of these parcels, (760 acres), will increase the amount of wetland-riparian areas in the Planning Unit. These areas are extremely important to many wildlife species.

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. . ."

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(Instructions on reverse)

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