

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Lands

Overlay Reference

Step 1 L-2.5, Step 3

Recommendation L-2.5

Allow the Water Power Resource Service (formerly the Bureau of Reclamation) to acquire 7,900 acres of public land for irrigation canals, irrigated farmland, and irrigated and non-irrigated wildlife habitat.

Rationale:

The Water Power Resource Service has had a pending withdrawal application with the Bureau of Land Management since 1967. They deleted 3,372 acres of public land from their application on February 22, 1980. The present lands selected by the WPRS have been reviewed jointly by the BLM, Fish and Game Department and the WPRS and tentatively, the lands appear to be suitable for development.

The Salmon Tract has a shortage of water and much of the private lands do not have a full water supply. The Salmon Tract project would supply approximately 35,840 acres of private land with supplemental water supplies. The project would also bring into private ownership about 1,900 acres of public land that would be developed for irrigated agriculture.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation does not actually allocate the described lands. The pending withdrawal application and accompanying environmental assessment and development plan are the authorities used to hold these lands in their presently withdrawn status. The plan describes, by legal subdivision, the exact lands that would be used for canals, developed for agricultural production, irrigated for wildlife habitat, and left non-irrigated for wildlife.

The WPRS has modified their withdrawal in the past. The recent change was in February 1980, when they deleted 3372 acres of public land. The lands presently in the application have been reviewed by the BLM, Fish and Game Department and WPRS and agreed that the land appears suitable for development.

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)

Twin Falls

Activity

Lands

Overlay Reference

Step L-2.5 Step 3

The proposed Salmon Tract project is intended to pump water from the Snake River near Milner Dam and run it in a canal system to the Salmon Tract irrigation district. The water is to be used to supplement the irrigation system on about 35,840 acres of private land that is presently under irrigation, but has a water shortage. There would be enough water to bring about 1900 acres into private ownership for irrigated agricultural purposes.

The delay on the project is that the canal company has not been able to get water or water rights. Until they get water, the project is at a stand still. There is still strong opinion from people working on the project that they will eventually get the water and go ahead with the proposed development.

WPRS has withdrawn 7900 acres and would turn 1900 of these acres in private irrigated farm land. The other 6000 acres would be canal, and wildlife habitat.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify L-2.5 -

Allow the canal on a R/W. Issue the withdrawal on the 1900 acres that would become private land. Retain and manage under co-op agreement all the other land according to the plans currently in effect.

Reasons:

It appears that irrigated agriculture is one of the highest and best uses of these lands when water is available.

Support Needs:

R.A. Staff and District Realty Specialist and Mineral Specialist -

Provide an interdisciplinary approach for the land disposals and for the development of the cooperative agreements.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject L-2.5.
2. Accept L-2.5.

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)
Twin Falls

Activity
Lands

Overlay Reference
Step 1 L-2.5 Step 3

Decision: OK
9/2/87

Accept multiple use recommendation with the following modifications:

1. Require that a water right be granted by the State to the Canal Company prior to R/W approval from the BLM for the proposed canal.
2. Request that the Bureau of Reclamation (WPRS) further modify their withdrawal application to the 1,900 acres that would become private land.

Rationale:

Evidence of water right approved by the State Department of Water Resources must be filed in order to allow a R/W on public lands for irrigation facilities, including canals.

The remainder of the 7,900 acres can affectively be managed for wildlife habitat under Cooperative Agreement. With reference to the withdrawal application, it segregated the lands from all entry under land laws and mining, but not mineral leasing. This application must be processed and adjudicated to conclusion within 15 years and will terminate unless so processed.

15 yrs from when?

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Lands
Objective Number	L-3

Objective:

Reserve 16,500 acres of public land for agricultural development. As adequate water supplies, energy supplies, and economic feasibility are proven, classify the public land as suitable for desert land entry or Carey Act development.

Rationale:

Approximately 23,000 acres of public land within the planning unit have soils and climatic conditions that are suitable for agricultural development. About 16,500 acres of the 23,000 acres can be blocked into logical farm blocks that adjoin private lands and that have a majority of Class II soils. As the economy of Twin Falls is based on agriculture, it is important to reserve suitable land for future agricultural development. It is anticipated that approximately 3,700 acres of farm land would be needed by the year 2000 to replace that lost to urban-suburban development.

Population projections for Twin Falls County indicate that about 3,700 acres of land will be needed for urban expansion. These lands are generally adjacent to urban areas and are mostly agricultural land. With available water and energy supplies and with proven agricultural feasibility, the public lands could maintain the agricultural land base for the planning unit within the foreseeable future.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Twin Falls

Activity
Lands

Overlay Reference
Step 1 L-3.1 Step 3

Recommendation: L-3.1

Reserve 12,500 acres of public land for future agricultural development. These lands should be managed as to not impair their suitability for agricultural development. Permanent structures, power lines, severe erosion, or shallow buried pipelines would impair the land for agriculture.

Rationale:

Approximately 23,000 acres of public land within the planning unit have soils and climatic conditions that would favor agricultural development. However, the lack of a reliable water source has prevented their previous development. As the economy of Twin Falls County is based on agriculture with indications that it will remain that way, it is important to reserve public land for future agricultural development.

Management geared towards not impairing the land's agricultural suitability will assure their availability when adequate water supplies, energy supplies and economic feasibility are proven.

Multiple Use Analysis

This area contains soils that are suitable for irrigated agricultural development. The soils are Class II and III soils. These soils are mixed with soils that are not suitable. This area is not as suitable as area L-3.2 shown on the lands MFP overlay. This area is not located as well for getting water out of the High Line canal in the Twin Falls Irrigation Co.

Interest in lands suitable for farming is intense from a few individuals who are desirous of obtaining these lands for agricultural development. Interest against agricultural development is also intense from the people who depend on the area for grazing. The area is crested wheat grass seedings and is managed according to intensive grazing management plan and produces about 320 AUM's per 640 acre section.

In conversation with the Twin Falls County Commissioners on April 23, 1981, they recommended that the land be retained in public ownership and current use/continue. They further recommended that the lands not be altered in their agricultural ability. Events and priorities are rapidly changing from year to year and no one can know if water and power will be available someday in the future.

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)

Twin Falls

Activity

Lands

Overlay Reference

Step 1 L-3.1^{sub} Step 3

Presently there is no water available for developing these sites into agricultural production. There are no indications that water will be available in the next several years.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify L-3.1.
Keep these lands in multiple use resource management. Continue the present level and intensity of use and management with emphasis on range and wildlife according to those recommendations.

Reasons:

The soils cannot be farmed without water. Presently in Twin Falls County Class I land that is in agricultural production is being removed from production at a steady rate indicating that additional land is not needed for production. Also, these lands are currently producing an agricultural product that is important to the economy and well being of the operators and the people.

Support Needs:

None.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Put the lands up for sale.
2. Make the lands available for exchange.
3. Encourage transfer of ownership through DLE or Carey Act.

Decision:

Accept multiple-use recommendation to manage 12,500 acres of public land under a multiple use concept without specific reserve for future agricultural development.

OK
HE
9-25-77

Rationale:

Agricultural development of these lands are limited by lack of reliable water and power and opposition from local government and livestock operators using the area for grazing. Present management and land uses are compatible with the resource and public, and should be continued.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instruction

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Lands
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	L-3.2 (tent.)

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject L-3.2 --
Retain the lands for multiple use.
Continue the present use of the
lands and do not alter the character
of the land to change the suitability
for intensive agriculture.

OK
gbl
4-2-57

Reasons:

These lands have been extensively developed by seeding, an extensive water system, and intensive grazing management systems. The livestock forage produced on these lands has been allocated and the users have developed a dependency on this production.

Changing the use from grazing to irrigated agriculture would increase the yield in pounds of biomass per acre. The change would cause a hardship on the agricultural segment presently using these lands. Not changing the agricultural use eliminates the hardship at the cost of the increased production.

Support Needs:

None.

Alternatives Considered:

Refer to the Multiple Use Analysis. If the land has to be made available for intensive agricultural development and the state is not interested in an exchange the PUBLIC SALE option would be the most expedient transfer at the least cost to the public and with the greatest return to the Federal Treasury.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Lands
Objective Number	L-4

Objective:

Confine future power transmission lines and oil and gas pipelines to designated corridor locations.

Rationale:

Two major electrical power transmission lines cross the planning unit. These lines are located where the impact to private agricultural lands are a minimum. There are no physical constraints that would prevent other lines from being installed alongside the existing lines. By confining future power transmission lines to designated corridors, the adverse impacts to aesthetics and to land use can be minimized.