

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Visual Resource Mgmt.

Overlay Reference D.5

Step 1 VRM-1.6 Step 3

Recommendation: VRM-1.6

Retain in public ownership all isolated parcels of public land in the agriculturally developed northern portion of the planning unit. Limit development of these parcels in order to preserve their "natural" character.

Support Needs:

None.

Rationale:

These parcels provide visual contrast with the surrounding irrigated crop lands. Though no specific input has been identified for preserving these parcels from a visual quality standpoint, 44 percent of those interviewed and 52 percent of those responding to the issue statement survey, supported retention of these tracts in an undisturbed state (or developed for pheasant habitat).

Multiple Use Analysis

The identified parcels of public land have a number of resource values. Three parcels have been identified for development by the Water and Power Resources Service. All parcels have been identified as important for wildlife habitat. Four parcels have been identified for development of saleable mineral materials. Before any isolated parcel is developed or disposed, an Environmental Assessment and land report must be written. This process allows decisions to be made on a site by site basis for each parcel. The process also allows each activity to state the values contained on each parcel.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify VRM-1.6 -  
Refer to Lands - Multiple Use Recommendation L-7.2 for lands identified for disposal and acquisition by exchange.

Reasons:

Multiple use resource values have been evaluated for the entire Planning Unit to identify which parcels should be retained, disposed of, and acquired. The isolated tracts are identified on a site specific basis showing how they should be developed and used to best appreciate the resource values.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept VRM-1.6.
2. Accept WL-4.15.
3. Accept L-2.5, 7.2.
4. Reject M-4.4.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity Visual Resource  
Management

Overlay Reference D.5

Step 1 VRM-1.7 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.7:

Designate a 1 mile corridor ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile either side of center line of highway) of land adjacent to U.S. Highways 93 and 30, State Highway 50, and the Rock Creek County Road as a traffic influence zone. Manage this corridor in a manner which will preserve or enhance the existing scenic quality on public lands.

- 1) Allow no new road construction, gravel extraction, etc., in the corridor.
- 2) Right-of-way corridors should not be allowed within the zone. If necessary, visual resource considerations need to be carefully considered prior to granting of rights-of-ways and construction of facilities.
- 3) Desert Land Entries or other means of disposal of public lands should not be allowed in the corridor.

Support Needs:

District Resources or Area Staff - Realty Specialist to initiate withdrawal procedures on lands included in the corridor which are not presently withdrawn (form DLE, Homestead laws, General Mining Laws, etc.).

Rationale:

Large numbers of people travel these State and U.S. Highways:

- 1) U.S. 93 at Perrine Bridge - 11,000 vehicles/day
- 2) U.S. 93 at Hollister - 2,380 vehicles/day
- 3) U.S. 93 at Nevada State Line - 2,000 vehicles/day
- 4) U.S. 30 at Buhl - 2,310 vehicles/day
- 5) U.S. 30 at Twin-Cassia Line - 630 vehicles/day
- 6) State 50 at Hansen Bridge - 4,150 vehicles/day

Because of the large number of people viewing public lands in these corridors, it behooves the BLM to manage the use in these areas in a manner which will not lead to the deterioration of scenic quality. This is particularly important because of the relatively low amount of undeveloped lands in the northern portion of the planning unit and the large block of low scenic quality land which exist along U.S. 93 in the southern portion of the unit.

A visual corridor adjacent to the Rock Creek County Road is recommended because of the rural atmosphere which exists in this narrow canyon. It is important, in order to preserve this quality, to carefully analyze any development occurring within the main foreground visual zone of the highway. Though traffic volume is considerably below that of the major transportation routes, this road provides the major access into a heavily used year-round recreation area.

From the Twin Falls County Comprehensive Plan (November, 1977), comes the following statement:

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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VRM-1.7	Step 3

"The establishment of open space corridors is one potential which could be realized through cooperative planning of the County's major creeks and river canyons. Development of these linear open space corridors could vary with the nature of the resources, the type of ownership and available access. Generally, the concept of these continuous open spaces would be twofold. It would provide for recreational enjoyment of the trip between specific open space attractions and enhance the habitat of fish and game by protecting its continuity and adjacent lands."

Multiple Use Analysis

Two land parcels along U. S. Highway 93 have been recommended for disposal. These two areas are VRM Class IV lands. The material site at Rabbit Springs is within the recommended highway corridor for Highway 93. Gravel extraction has already occurred at this material site.

*(Decision)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify VRM-1.7 -  
Allow site by site determination of impacts of developments along highways. Resource uses and developments will be planned and executed to meet the designation criteria in recommendations 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4.

Support Needs:

District Landscape Architect -  
Help with project lay-out and design and determine VRM ratings for proposed projects.

Reasons:

Much of the land included in the recommended highway corridors has low scenic qualities. The environmental assessment process for development proposals will allow for consideration of visual resource values.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept VRM-1.7.
2. Reject L-2.5, 3.2.
3. Disregard M-4.4.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Visual Resource Management
Overlay Reference	D.5
Step	VRM-1.8 Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.8: (Decision)

Rationale:

Enhance existing recreation sites by taking the following actions:

Rabbit Springs Recreation Site -

- 1) Fence site to eliminate grazing, preferably with a barbed wire fence.
- 2) Plant shrubs and trees (preferably natives) within the fenced recreation site.

Because these sites are provided for public use, they need to be visually appealing in order to attract use. The utilization of money and manpower to develop and maintain these sites is wasted if they do not attract any visitor use. The more visually appealing the sites can be made, the more use they will receive.

Winter Spring Picnic Area -

- 1) Enlarge (by fencing additional area) the site to include the spring, drainage way, etc. This will reduce the overall visual impact the site creates presently.
- 2) Plant shrubs and trees (preferably natives) within the fenced site.

Low scenic quality at Rabbit Springs and Winter Spring has an adverse impact on the amount of use these sites receive. The proposed enhancement at these sites will, in all probability, result in increased use.

Both sites are located on traffic routes which receive considerable use, thus there is a need to create and maintain an attractive site.

Support Needs:

District Operations - Engineer, Fire crew for fencing, planting trees, shrubs, etc.

District Resources or Area Staff - Landscape Architect to work with engineering on lay out and design of fences, plantings, etc.

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Multiple Use Analysis

Cultural resource sites exist near both springs. Increased use of the areas could result in deterioration of the cultural sites. Also, the improvement work itself could physically impact the sites. The watershed activity has recommended rehabilitation of a gully adjacent to the Winter Spring enclosure. Also recommended was the planting of vegetation to help in soil stabilization. A saleable mineral materials site has been identified near Rabbit Springs.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (NFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Visual Resource Management
Overlay Reference	Unit Wide
Step 1 VRM-1.9	Step 3

Recommendation VRM-1.9:

Protect riparian/wetland areas throughout the planning unit by:

- a) Limiting livestock use of riparian/wetland areas along streams and around reservoirs and springs identified in the Riparian Inventory as Class I, II, or III - limiting spring use, implementing grazing systems which allow seasonal (or periodic) resting of these areas, or by fencing stream sections.
- b) Designation of streamside corridors where no vegetation can be removed. Primarily areas identified as Class I or II in the Riparian Inventory, but should also consider major stretches ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile or greater) where condition is less than good.
- 3) Limiting ORV use during spring (March 1 to May 15) season to prevent damage to wetland/riparian areas.

Support Needs:

District Resources or Area Staff - Range Conservationist to develop grazing systems, seasons of use criteria, etc., for livestock. Wildlife Biologist and Hydrologist to identify critical areas which need protection. Landscape Architect to provide better guidance to the VRM program than is now available with the Outdoor Recreation Planner handling the program. Additional Use Supervision of these sites will also be necessary to insure these actions are carried out and the desired affects are being achieved.

Rationale:

Because the dominant plant communities in the planning unit are sagebrush/grass communities, riparian/wetland areas provide visual contrast in the natural landscape. These areas are often in poor condition because of the livestock grazing, ORV use, or other activities. Providing protection of these areas is important in order to preserve the natural visual contrasts that exist in the landscape.

An issue statement brochure which was distributed to over 200 residents of Twin Falls County contained several statements which related directly or indirectly to the protection of riparian/wetland areas. Statement 10 dealt specifically with riparian and stream-bank areas and fencing of such areas. Response to this issue was split almost equally between those supporting fencing and those against fencing. Water quality, which can benefit from riparian habitat protection, was discussed in statement 6. Of those responding, approximately 43% felt that water quality should be improved, while smaller percentages favored other resource uses (ORVs, grazing) or were undecided. Finally, statement 1 dealt with ORV use on public lands. Eighty percent of those responding believed restrictions on this use were needed. Specific comments included: "Set fines for ORV use on muddy ground." "ORV use should be restricted only during muddy conditions." and "Restrict ORV's from sensitive areas (e.g., riparian)."

Wetland - Riparian Area Protection and Management guidelines (BLM Manual 6740) identify these areas as visually important. "Wetland-riparian areas are popular recreation areas,...and provide scenic variety...Many have been destroyed or degraded. This degradation is influencing water quality and quantity,...

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse

Form BLM-11, April 1977

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Overlay Reference Unit Wide	Step 1 VRM-1.9 Step 3

area aesthetics..." (6740.07). Though the regulations do not specifically discuss visual quality in the management section (6740.2), visual quality preservation and/or enhancement are a "secondary effect" of other management practices identified for protecting wetland-riparian areas.

### Multiple Use Analysis

Riparian areas are the center of a number of conflicting recommendations. These areas are important to wildlife and livestock. These areas also offer watershed protection and visual enhancement. Management of riparian areas should strive for optimization of the various uses of these areas.

*Decision*

#### Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify VRM-1.9 -  
Implement grazing systems as listed under the range activity. Fence headbox and/or overflow of springs depending on individual site situations. Where fencing is done, provide for livestock water. Limit the use of ORVs in the South Hills during moist spring conditions.

#### Reasons:

Riparian areas are critical to many resource activities. Protection of these areas is important for visual contrast, watershed protection and wildlife habitat. Fencing of streams would be prohibitively expensive.

#### Support Needs:

R. A. Staff -  
Interdisciplinary approach to riparian management should include Range Conservationist, Wildlife Biologist, Hydrologist Landscape Architect and Outdoor Recreation Planner.

*OK  
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#### Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept VRM-1.9 without modification.
2. Reject VRM-1.9 without modification.
3. Disregard RM-1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7.
4. Disregard WS-1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4.
5. Disregard WL-2.10, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Illustrations on reverse

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## Reconciliation - Visual Resources

Several items discussed in Visual Resources URA Step 4 were not carried forward (or were significantly modified) into MFP 1. These items included either non-land use or land allocation decisions or were deemed inappropriate at this time. These items include:

- 1) Modification of isolated parcel retention, eliminating those parcels outside the developed agricultural portion of the planning unit.
- 2) Performance of Visual Contrast Ratings on all proposed developments. This is required by the BLM Manual.
- 3) Watering program at Salmon Dam, Rabbit Springs, and Winter Spring.
- 4) Preservation of remains of stone houses was eliminated because of the minor area they impact.
- 5) Rehabilitation of ORV track (T. 12 S., R. 18 E., Sec. 9) and rock quarry (T. 16 S., R. 15 E., Sec. 2) were eliminated because of recreational use which outweighed the need to improve visual quality.