

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	
Step R-1.2	Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Much of the recreation on public land within the planning unit is associated with Salmon Falls Creek and Reservoir. This area represents the greatest potential for the development and use of camping areas. This area also contains the highest concentration of cultural resource sites in the Planning Unit. Campground development would benefit boating and fishing activities in the area but could also cause damage to some of the cultural sites. Campsite development throughout the Planning Unit will help to reduce the existing deficiency of developed camping areas.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.2 -
Upgrade the facilities at the following sites as recommended:
Rabbit Spring
Winter Spring
Norton's Bay & Grey's Landing
Salmon Falls Dam Recreation Site
Milner Bicentennial Site

Develop facilities at the following sites as recommended:
Upper Salmon Falls Creek
Shoshone Creek
Sugarloaf Springs
China Creek

Do not develop facilities along McMullen or Lower Salmon Falls Creeks.

Coordinate closely with District Archaeologist in specific site location and facility installation.

Protect the China Creek, Norton Bay, Gray's Landing, Rabbit Spring, and Salmon Dam sites according to L-6.2 and M-1.1.

Reasons:

Developed campsites are quite limited within the Planning Unit. Upgrading existing facilities will be the most cost-effective expenditures and should be completed first. Development of additional sites will help meet present and future demand. A facility along McMullen Creek would seriously threaten the minimal fishery present in that stream. A developed facility along Lower Salmon Falls Creek would conflict with the proposed natural area designation. The District Archaeologist must be consulted as good campsite locations generally contain cultural sites.

It has been determined by inventories and public input that it is in the public interest to keep these sites at China Creek, Norton Bay, Gray's Landing, Rabbit Spring, and Salmon Dam for recreation development and use.

*Addressed
in Casco
RMP.*

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Overlay Reference

Step R-1.2 (concept)

Support Needs:

District Landscape -
Architect to assist in project
layout and design.

District Operations-Engineers -
Help with project design and
implementation.

District Archaeologist -
Assist in facility location.

Two Recreation Rangers -
Patrol and maintenance of
facilities.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject R-1.2 in full.
2. Accept R-1.2 in full.
3. Modify R-1.2 differently.
4. Disregard CRM-1.9.

Decision:

Accept multiple-use recommendation to upgrade recreational facilities at the existing sites, but modify to develop additional facilities when funds are available in Upper Salmon Falls Creek, Shoshone Creek, Sugarloaf Springs and China Creek. Accept protection measures for those sites listed with reference to L-6.2 and M-1.1.

OK
GR
9.14.87

Rationale:

While recreation demand for developed campsites on public lands continue to grow, funds to properly construct, operate and maintain these facilities are not adequate. Upgrading developed sites is the highest priority since they are the most cost effective and presently have a known demand. Protection of the listed recreation sites will preserve high recreation value for public use at China Creek, Norton Bay, Gray's Landing, Rabbit Springs and Salmon Dam.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation Management
Overlay Reference	C.7
Step 1	R-1.3 Step 3

Recommendation R-1.3:

Designate four areas in Twin Falls Planning Unit as special recreation management areas.

- a) Designate an area between Salmon Falls Dam and Balanced Rock as the Salmon Falls Creek Natural Area.
- b) Designate an area adjacent to Salmon Falls Reservoir as the Salmon Falls Reservoir Recreation Area Lands (would include some area in the Boise District and, possibly, in the Elko District).
- c) Oregon Trail - Milner Bicentennial Site - Though facilities have already been developed at this site (in Twin Falls and West Cassia Planning Units), management of the site is not doing an adequate job at the present time. The following management actions should be undertaken at the site:
 - 1) Fence the Oregon Trail itself, hopefully keeping vehicular traffic off this significant historic site.
 - 2) Replace the existing fencing along the parking lot (chain - desirable and less expensive to replace), hopefully reducing the theft that is occurring.
 - 3) Maintain the nature/interpretive trail and trail to the picnic ramadas, thus making it easier for foot access to the ramadas.
 - 4) Construct at least one additional ramada nearer the parking area (or move existing ramada).

Rationale:

- a) See rationale for Natural History Recommendation NH-1.1.
- b) Recreational use at and in the area of Salmon Falls Reservoir is presently a significant portion of the recreational use on public lands. The area, though, is still not receiving use at its maximum capability. In order to insure that the potential of the area for recreational use is recognized and to insure that development is coordinated to best provide for the needs and demand of the recreating public, a special management designation should be established.
- c) The National Historic Trail designation places added meaning and importance on the Oregon Trail, both from the preservation standpoint and the recreational use of the trail. This legislation requires the development of a management plan for the trail, incorporating both preservation and interpretive (recreational use) proposals. The Oregon Trail is considered an important part of the history of the West and, as such, deserves special management.
- d) See rationale for Natural History Recommendation NH-1.2.

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Overlay Reference	Step R-1.3 Step 3

- 5) Provide other picnic facilities on Milner Reservoir (i.e. - at the site of the new boat launch.

In addition, the legislation which designated the Oregon Trail as a National Historic Trail requires the development of a management plan for the trail. Two studies presently being completed will be used to develop this plan. Plan should be completed by FY 83. No presently identified segments of the trail (visible) have been identified in the Twin Falls Planning Unit except at the Milner Bicentennial Site.

- d) Support the HCRS proposal to designate the area known as Dry Cataracts as a National Natural Landmark. See Recommendation NH-1.2 for what needs to be done to support this proposal.

Support Needs:

Survey - Determine the boundaries for Salmon Falls Natural Area and Dry Cataracts. Recreation Planner and Landscape Architect to provide provide assistance in developing management plans, etc.

District Resources or Area Staff - Landscape Architect to assist in developing management plans and layout and design. Reality Specialist for any withdrawal action required and land reports. Geologists for mineral reports. Two Recreation Rangers for maintenance, monitoring and patrol.

Other - Cassia County and Twin Falls County Sheriff's Departments for site patrol (particularly at the Milner Site).

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 R-1.3 & Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

Refer to WM-1.2 for discussion of Salmon Falls Natural Area. Salmon Falls Reservoir and the surrounding public land provide for a large amount of public recreation. The proposed designation would identify the significance of the area. The development of a recreation management plan is important for the improvement and use of the recreation opportunities in the area. More effective management of the Oregon Trail and Milner area will reduce the need for restrictive management in the future. Refer to NH-1.2 for discussion of Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept R-1.3 -
Refer to WM-1.2 concerning Salmon Falls Natural Area. Refer to NH-1.2 concerning Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark. Designate an area adjacent to Salmon Falls Reservoir as the Salmon Falls Reservoir Recreation Lands. Implement the management actions for the Oregon Trail as recommended.

Reasons:

Salmon Falls Reservoir is an important center of recreation activities in Twin Falls County. Designating the surrounding area as recreation lands will help identify the significance of the area for recreation. Adequate management is required for the protection of the Oregon Trail. This management is warranted by the trail's importance.

Support Needs:

State Office -
Cadastral Survey for boundary of Dry Cataracts Area

Area Outdoor Recreation Planner and Other Area Staff -
Develop management plan for each of the four areas

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject R-1.3.
2. Disregard NH-1.1, WM-1.2.
3. Disregard NH-1.2.
4. Disregard R-1.6.
5. Reject R-2.1.
6. Disregard CRM-1.8.

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Name (MFP)
Twin Falls

Activity
Recreation

Overlay Reference
Step 1 R-1.3 Step 3

Decision:

Accept multiple-use recommendation concerning Salmon Falls Canyon in accordance with NH-1.1 and WM-1.2. Accept Dry Cataracts recommendation with reference to NH-1.2. Accept Salmon Falls Reservoir Recreation Lands and accept action of the Oregon Trail as recommended.

Modify the recommendation by including the Foothills area and the Snake River Heritage System as special recreation management areas. Refer to R-2.2 for description of the heritage system.

*Pending
GHE
9-14-87*

Rationale:

A decision to designate the Salmon Falls Canyon area as suitable or unsuitable for wilderness should precede a natural area designation. Interim management in accordance with WSA provisions serves to protect most of the natural area until the EIS is completed and a decision reached.

Recreation use of lands near Salmon Falls Reservoir appears to be its highest and best public use.

The importance of the Oregon Trail should be recognized by protection and special management.

The Foothills area is a popular area and receives a large amount of dispersed recreation use. This use has resulted in resource damage. A special recreation management area designation would facilitate more intensive management to improve recreation opportunities and reduce environmental damage.

The historic sites included in the heritage system provide unique insight into the early development of the Twin Falls area. These sites are optimum locations for providing the public with interpretive recreation opportunities.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name	Twin Falls
Activity	Recreation Management
Overlay Reference	Unit Wide
Step	R-1.4 step 3

Recommendation R-1.4:

Enhance fishing opportunities in the MFP area by taking the following action:

- a) Retain all public lands bordering on streams or reservoirs with fishery potential in order to insure the maintenance of a quality habitat and to insure public access to said streams and reservoirs.

Support Needs:

NONE.

Rationale:

Fishing is the single most popular recreational activity (aside from sight-seeing) on public land in the Twin Falls Planning Unit. Though not a significant economic factor in the county (less than 1% of total county earnings), there is a definite demand for opportunities to participate in this activity. Because of its popularity, the BLM should enhance fishing opportunities on public lands to the fullest extent possible. This is in compliance with policy identified in the Twin Falls County Comprehensive Plan (Nov. 1977) which says "Encourage maintenance and development of sport fisheries in the County by controlling water quality and land development."

In addition, BLM Manual 6740 includes regulations for the protection and management of wetland-riparian areas. These regulations identify as Bureau policy the retention of all wetlands and riparian habitats (6740.06E). The regulations state that "Wetland-riparian areas are fragile and comprise an extremely small percentage of the public lands administered by the BLM. Many have been destroyed or degraded. This degradation is influencing water quality and quantity;...commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries;..." (6740.07).

Multiple Use Analysis

Streamside corridors are important to many activities that occur on the public lands. Protection of riparian habitat is warranted from watershed, wildlife, visual and recreation standpoints. Total protection is, in most cases, prohibitively expensive. Streams and reservoirs are important areas for livestock use.

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Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1R-1.4 Step 3

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify R-1.4 -

Retain all public lands along waters with fishery potential. Implement grazing systems designed to help protect riparian and aquatic habitat. Establish a study enclosure on McMullen Creek in the Western Stockgrowers Allotment and one on Shoshone Creek in the Magic Common Allotment to monitor the success of the grazing systems for WS-1.4. Along stream sections and reservoir shorelines where grazing is not a limiting factor, plant vegetation in areas that lack shading.

Reasons:

Due to the cost of fencing entire stream lengths, grazing systems geared toward protecting streams will be used first. The recommended enclosures will show how much streamside damage is caused specifically by livestock. This data will be used to determine the cost-effectiveness of fencing entire stream lengths. Vegetation plantings will help improve areas that lack shading.

Support Needs:

Area Wildlife Biologist and Watershed Specialist -
Identify specific areas for protection and rehabilitation.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept R-1.4 in full.
2. Reject R-1.4 in full.
3. Disregard WL-3.1; 3.10; 3.11.
4. Reject WL-3.1.

Decision:

Accept multiple-use recommendation.

*OK
GC
9-14-87*

Rationale:

Lands retained in public ownership that provide access to fishery waters facilitate one of the most popular recreational activities in the Twin Falls planning unit. Streams with fishery potential can be enhanced by properly designed grazing systems, vegetation plantings, and fencing where applicable.

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(Instructions on reverse)

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