

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Antelope
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-1.10 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Improve current and future antelope habitat by modifying existing fences and constructing new fences to conform to the current antelope fence specifications.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Assistance in identification of existing and future fence modifications.
- Operations - On the ground modification of fences which should conform to Bureau standards.
- Recreation - Assistance in fence project work in order to accommodate the visual resource.
- Wildlife - Inventory, identification and preparation of EA for antelope fence projects. Coordination with range and operations on locations.

RATIONALE:

All existing fences in the present antelope range and antelope expansion areas that impede antelope movement should be modified. Antelope mortality due to too many fences and/or improperly constructed fences is well documented in other states. Construction of fences to present Bureau standards will allow for passage and movement of, not only antelope, but other wildlife species as well.

Multiple Use Analysis

The existing livestock fences in current and future antelope range areas were constructed prior to the time when standardized antelope design fences became mandatory. It is important to identify areas where antelope movement does and will occur. These selected sections of fence should then be modified to allow antelope unrestricted movement.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (W/P):	Twin Falls
Activity:	Wildlife - Big Game
Overlay Reference:	
Step	WL-1.11 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide habitat for the introduction of bighorn sheep in Salmon Falls Canyon from Salmon Falls Dam downstream to Lilly Grade.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Elimination of livestock grazing in the designated bighorn sheep introduction area in Salmon Falls Canyon.
- Archaeology - Protection of cultural resources.
- IDFG - Introduction of the bighorn sheep into the canyon.
- Wildlife - Inventory of introduction area, preparation of HMP and EA and coordination with range and IDFG.

RATIONALE:

Historically, bighorn sheep inhabited Salmon Falls Canyon. "Bighorn sheep were common in southwestern Idaho prior to settlement by the whiteman. Archaeological excavations and occasional sightings of sheep skulls indicate bighorns were found in Salmon Falls Creek, . . . In 1972, a rancher living in Oneal Basin unearthed a cache of bighorn skulls on the South Fork of Salmon Falls Creek. This site is approximately 20 miles south of the Idaho border in Nevada."¹

Currently, IDFG notes that the demand for bighorn sheep exceeds the supply.² IDFG considers the area to be a prime candidate for a transplant (Gary Will, Regional Wildlife Manager, Region IV-IDFG, 4-3-80, Personal Communication). The URA Step IV opportunities narrative provides for improvement and maintenance of the habitat in order to support a bighorn sheep population. An intensive inventory is needed to determine the range condition, trend, species composition, etc.

To be in line with IDFG goals, only Bighorn Sheep should be released. The sheep would be released in groups of 10-20/site.

¹ Hanna, P. and Rath, M. 1976. A SUCCESSFUL BIGHORN SHEEP REESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO. IDFG and BLM. Boise, Idaho.

² Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. IDFG. Boise, Idaho.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step iWL-1.11 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

An intensive inventory needs to be conducted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and BLM to determine the feasibility of a bighorn sheep introduction. Historically, bighorn sheep inhabited Salmon Falls Canyon. IDFG has shown an interest in the possibility of an introduction. It may be several years before the project would be approved and funded. If recreation developments mentioned under R-1.2f, R-1.11 and NH-1.1 occur, there would be a conflict. If recreation designates the area as a "Natural Area" with no developments, there would be no conflict. The presence of bighorn sheep would enhance the natural area and compliment the recreational experiences.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reason:

Accept WL-1.11 -
Study the feasibility of bighorn sheep introduction into Salmon Falls Canyon. Complete a management plan before introduction.

A study will allow a thorough analysis for determination of feasibility of an introduction.

Proceed with the introduction if the habitat is suitable and the benefits of bighorn sheep exceed the benefits of the resource values foregone.

Support Needs:

Alternatives Considered:

Feasibility study.
Coordination with IDFG.
Introduction.

1. Reject WL-1.11.
2. Disregard R-1.2 and R-1.11.
3. Modify NH-1.1.

Decision:

Rationale:

Accept the multiple-use recommendation.

Bighorn sheep introductions into Salmon Falls Canyon should be proceeded by adequate feasibility studies and a habitat management plan.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls	
Activity	Wildlife - Upland Game	
Overlay Reference	WL-2.1 Step 3	

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Acquire the following parcel of land to provide additional upland game habitat:

T. 10S., R. 18 E. - Springtown
Sec 11: N 1/2 N 1/2 SE 1/4 Lane

SUPPORT:

- Lands - Preparation of land report and EA for land acquisition.
- Recreation - Assistance in acquisition to provide sportsman access.
- Archaeology - Assistance in acquisition to provide access to Springtown.
- Wildlife - Assistance in acquisition.

RATIONALE:

Acquisition of this 40 acre tract of land will allow for continuous "rim-front" public land for over two miles. It will also allow public access to a now "inaccessible-to-the-public" portion. Currently, the adjacent public lands are Sikes Act tracts. The Sikes Act (PL 93-452) authorizes the BLM to jointly develop and carry out wildlife programs with state wildlife departments on federal lands. This parcel would also be included in the Cassia-Twin Falls Sikes Act Isolated Tracts Habitat Management Plan.

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 . . ."

Multiple Use Analysis

This 40 acre parcel of land was identified for acquisition because it would serve the public need for access. Acquisition of this parcel would provide the following benefits: (1) continuous "rim-front" public land for over two miles; (2) public access to a now "inaccessible-to-the-public" portion of public land; (3) inclusion into the Sikes Act program; (4) CRM-1.1 and CRM-1.8 --access and further preservation of Spring Town; and (5) R-1.8 and R-2.2 -- protection, preservation and interpretation of Spring Town.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reason:

Accept WL-2.1 -
acquire this 40acre parcel of private land.

BLM ownership and administration will insure that the land use and wildlife benefits provided will remain available.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Upland Game
Objective Number	WL-2

OBJECTIVE:

Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitats for upland game species throughout the Planning Unit.

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.

The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) indicates that by 1995 the demand for big game hunter days on public land in the Planning Unit will be 10,454 days. In other words, overall hunter days will increase 44 percent from the current level. In 1995, it is estimated that the gross value of hunter days attributable to public land wildlife habitat in the Planning Unit for upland game hunting will be \$2,543,980.90.

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.

The Sikes Act (P.L. 93-452) authorizes the BLM, to jointly develop and carry out wildlife programs with State wildlife departments on Federal lands. Currently, in the Twin Falls Planning Unit, the Sikes Act program covers the Cassia-Twin Falls Sikes Act Isolated Tracts and the Milner Habitat Management Plans.

2. Long-Term Objectives.

a. Maintain a maximum diversity of wildlife species in sufficient numbers to meet public demands. This will be accomplished by means of habitat management.

b. Sponsor or conduct the research, studies, and inventories necessary to insure adequate data for decision making relating to the maintenance of habitat expressed in a. above.

3. Major Principles and Standards.

a. Maintain cooperative relations with States, other Federal Agencies, public interest groups, and individuals interested in or responsible for wildlife use, protection, and habitat management.

b. The essential requirements of wildlife -- food, cover, and water -- will be maintained so as to provide optimum "edge effect" and interspersion of habitat components in important wildlife areas.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Name (M/F)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Upland Game
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-2.2 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Provide upland game habitat, primarily pheasants and public hunting areas, by: maintaining small isolated parcels of public land which are surrounded by private land in public ownership (these tracts must be in legal subdivision); in all future desert land entries, Carey Act, public sales, land exchanges, etc.; retain a minimum of 15 percent of the land in public ownership; retain the following isolated parcels in public ownership and maintain them in their present condition until such time when the surrounding private land goes into agriculture.

T. 12 S., R. 15 E.

Sec. 24: SE1/4SE 1/4

- Hollister West

T. 12 S., R. 16 E.

Sec. 19: Lot 4, SE1/4SW 1/4

T. 12 S., R. 16 E.

Sec. 19: SE1/4SE1/4

- Hollister East

RATIONALE:

Isolated parcels of public land adjacent to private land are extremely important as upland game habitat. These areas provide the required food and cover which cannot always be found on private land. According to the Twin Falls Survey, 51.8 percent of the people surveyed feel that the BLM should continue to hold isolated tracts of undeveloped public land and to manage these tracts to help offset shrinking pheasant habitat.¹ This survey shows the importance of maintaining and managing these isolated parcels for upland game. As they become identified these parcels should be included in the Cassia-Twin Falls Sikes Act Isolated Tracts Habitat Management Plan.

Criteria for land retention is consistent with the principals developed in the Agricultural Development EA and Boise District Agricultural Development EIS for Southwest Idaho.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Development of grazing systems on those parcels with grazing to maintain them in good condition.
- Lands - Retention of 15 percent of public land in all land disposal actions.
- Recreation - Assistance in implementation of recommendation for the benefit of sportsmen.
- Archaeology - Assistance in retention of parcels for protection of cultural resources.

¹ Burley District Memo. 1607. RESULTS OF THE TWIN FALLS SURVEY. November 19, 1980.

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Name (M/P)	Twin Falls
Action	Wildlife - Upland Game
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-2.3 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Improve upland game habitat by making all existing and future water developments available to all upland game birds. Improve the chukar habitat by installing permanent water sources in chukar range. Construct and install bird guzzlers along Salmon Falls Creek rim for chukar and near the juniper trees by Mule Creek for quail. Install additional guzzlers as locations become identified.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Identification of existing and future livestock water to modify for upland game birds.
- Operations - Construction, installation, and modification of water developments for upland game birds.
- Recreation - Assistance in implementing recommendation to provide pleasing aesthetic values.
- Wildlife - Location of future water developments for upland game birds. Coordination with range and operations on design.

RATIONALE:

Water is an essential requirement of all upland game. Improved water distribution is important for sage grouse. They normally select areas near water for rearing broods and spending the summer. Water is important to the pheasant for survival. Quail require water daily. It is an essential part of their habitat. Watering places should be widely distributed, preferably within one-half mile of each other. Doves require water daily. Water availability is the only limiting factor for this highly adaptable species. For the chukar, water is a limiting factor and has a great effect on distribution, particularly during the summer. The chukar would benefit from any water development in its range since it is not regularly seen more than one mile from water during hot, dry summers. IDFG fully supports the development of additional water sources to increase chukar distribution and numbers over their current range.¹ The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) shows that 68 percent of the chukar habitat in the Planning Unit is on public land with 7 percent of the hunting days taking place on public land. From 1975 to 1995 hunter days are expected to make a 97 percent increase on public land. In 1980, \$5,719.77 was spent hunting chukar on public land in the Planning Unit. This will increase to an estimated \$72,274.95 by 1995. It is projected that under current management levels and habitat trends chukar populations will continue to decline in Idaho. Increased demand will result in harvest levels remaining essentially constant while success rates drop. At current success rates, demand will exceed supply by 1985. By improving and maintaining chukar habitat in optimum condition, an increase over the current levels of the chukar population, harvest and success rate will occur.¹ Water developments should be designed for exclusive use by upland game.

¹ Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

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Name (BMP)
Twin Falls
Activity
Wildlife - Upland Game
Overlay Reference
Step (WL-2.4 Step 3)

RECOMMENDATION:

Maintain existing islands of brush in all crested wheatgrass seedings to provide cover and food for upland game. Retain brush islands in all land treatment areas. Protect brushy cover on public land adjacent to private land. No sagebrush eradication of any type such as burning, spraying, chaining, etc. should take place on areas of public land within 1/4 mile of private land within the pheasant habitat range. A one-half mile perimeter of vegetative cover should be maintained around the Berger Resource Conservation Area. Provide "travel lanes" for pheasants to move between cover, food and water sources if these components are as far as one-fourth to one-half mile apart by protecting fence-rows, waterways, ditchbanks, field borders, odd areas, weed patches, etc.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Provide required "vegetative" areas for upland game in the preparation of EA's involving land treatments. Coordination with wildlife.
- Operations - Coordination with wildlife in design and location of leave areas in all land treatment projects.
- Archaeology - Assistance in layout of projects to protect cultural resources.

RATIONALE:

Islands of brush in monotypic stands of crested wheatgrass seedings and the retention of brush islands in all land treatments is important in the maintenance of optimum upland game habitat. Nuttall's cottontail and pygmy rabbits inhabit brushy areas. They are highly dependent on cover for protection from predators.¹ The existing Nuttall's cottontail and pygmy rabbit habitat (i.e. "brushy" cover) must be improved and maintained so as to support a population of 19,855 animals on public land in the Planning Unit by 1995. The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) shows that in the Planning Unit 30 percent of the cottontail/rabbit habitat is found on public land and 31 percent of the hunting days take place on public land. From 1975 to 1995 hunter days are expected to make a 92 percent increase on public land. The PAA reflects the importance of these species as upland game in the Planning Unit. It is reflected in the expenditure of \$33,657.15 spent in 1980 in the Planning Unit hunting cottontails/rabbits on public land. This will increase to an estimated \$549,971.00 by 1995. Cottontail and pygmy rabbit populations fluctuate on an approximate 10-year cycle. Allowing for these cyclic fluctuations, populations have remained essentially stable from 1960 through 1975 and, under present management levels and habitat trends, are projected to maintain past and present levels through 1990. With increasing numbers of hunters, some additional interest in cottontail and pygmy rabbit hunting is foreseen and harvests and success rates should increase over past and present levels.²

- 1 U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1976. HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR RABBITS. Soil Conservation Service. Boise, Idaho.
- 2 Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Boise, Idaho.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.

(Instructions on reverse)

Bureau of Land Management