

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Range Management
Overlay Reference	Step 1 RM-2.1 Step 3

Recommendation:

RM-2.1 - Treat 34,770 acres of existing seedings described below to reduce invading brush species and improve production and grazing condition.

#	Name	Acres	AUMs
4000	Babcock-Berger	246	79
4001	Buhl Group-Berger*	2192	480
4002	Kerr-Berger	1347	485
4003	Ellis-Tews Berger	3563	1303
4005	Koch-Berger	250	100
4006	Kaster-Berger*	665	205
4007	Kunkel-Berger	306	50
4008	Lassen-Berger*	170	40
4012	Lanting-Berger*	960	160
4013	Martens-Berger*	160	24
4014	Noh-Berger*	540	170
4015	Parrott-Berger	756	190
4016	PVGA-Berger*	2160	525
4017	Schnitker-Berger	320	53
4019	Wrigley-Berger*	1511	503
4021	Whiskey Creek Buffer	436	65
4023	Baker-Deep Creek	1086	362
4024	Baker-Lost Creek	790	388
4031	Western Stockgrowers	1206	205
4035	Whiskey Creek	2252	811
4036	Moore-Lost Creek	80	22
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	3751	1463
4039	Noh-White Rock	465	246
4041	Mule Creek-PVGA	1176	370
4042	Horse Creek-PVGA	1817	370
4044	South Mule Creek	69	6
4053	Hub Butte-WSGA	2351	807
4055	Hub Butte-Davis	517	127
4057	Fuller	1025	341
4071	Jones-Goat Spr.	1187	262
4079	Lilly Grade*	594	100
4098	Schnell-Salmon Tr.	702	92
4102	Lost Creek	337	146
4114	Squaw Joe	651	266

Rationale:

Analysis of the 1979 SVIM inventory, actual use, utilization and trend data indicates 23 allotments fall short of providing adequate forage to meet the range users grazing preference demand. Additionally, the projected 70% increase in demand in the planning unit by the year 2000 cannot be met with existing production.

Implementing this recommendation will protect the existing public and private investments in the existing land treatments involved.

The expected increases in capacity were determined by comparing the existing production of proposed treatment areas with the production of similar sites in excellent condition.

The areas included in this recommendation have sufficient perennial forage species present to provide for reseeding naturally.

2.1
SEEDING

Support:

- Resource Area Staff: (Layout)
- Operations: (Treatment)
- Administration: (Contracts)
- Fire Crew: (Burning)
- Archeologist: (Cultural Clearance)
- *Allotments with forage deficiencies

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept the recommendation to treat the areas listed in RM-2.1. Due to cost, spraying and burning should be used when feasible, but consider chaining, raiing, and livestock trampling as alternatives on an individual basis. The following list of stipulations will guide the implementation of projects for multiple resource management.

1. Do cultural examination to identify all cultural sites and take necessary steps to avoid damage or do testing or salvage as applicable.
2. Coordinate with Twin Falls County commissioners to establish a time frame for their sanitary landfill needs. When their future needs are ten years or more in the future proceed with the seeding maintenance subject to a benefit-cost determination. Range projects numbered 16 and 46 on Range URA IV-1.2 overlay.
3. Determine when the lands in the WPRS withdrawal would be changed from grazing to farming. If it exceeds ten years from the time the sites can be scheduled for maintenance go ahead with the project if it has a favorable benefit-cost ratio. Range projects number 16, 18, 19 and 21 on Range URA IV-1.2 overlay.
4. The project in Kaster-Berger Allotment is in the area that is suitable for agriculture. Proceed with the seeding maintenance until such time that the use of the allotment changes to agricultural.

Reasons:

The Bureau has made determinations through past land use planning and AMP development that the areas needed to be seeded, either through vegetation changes or fire rehabilitation. The forage resource generated from those projects has been allocated on a multiple use and sustained yield basis. Range users have developed a dependency on the use of the forage resource and in most cases it has been converted to grazing preference. There are erosion-susceptible areas in existing seedings that should be maintained in vegetative cover to provide maximum soil stabilization.

The proposed treatment areas in sage grouse strutting, nesting, brood rearing and winter habitat; sharp-tailed grouse habitat, deer winter range, and deer fawning areas will apply to about one-half the proposed acreage.

Many grazing operators have indicated that they prefer spraying as the treatment method and are willing to pay the total cost and perform the maintenance via cooperative agreement.

A cost analysis has revealed that railing would be one of the least costly treatment methods if it can be shown to give satisfactory results.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple Use Recommendation (cont.):

5. The Visual Resource Class I area for Salmon Falls Wilderness Study Area is proposed to include the area within the canyon from rim-to-rim. The existing seeding will be maintained to its original boundary along Salmon Falls Canyon as long as it does not impair the natural values as viewed from within the canyon.
6. The Visual Resource Management Class III recommendation will be resolved by modifications for wildlife habitat. These modifications are:
 - a. In project No. 19 on Range URA IV-1.2 overlay do not treat the draws as identified on the wildlife MFP 1 overlay for quail. This area is the bottom of the draws where there are large brushy areas.
 - b. In project areas numbered 19, 21, 56, 57 and 65 on Range URA IV-1.2 overlay treatments will leave strips and islands of brush. These strips and islands will be determined in the project planning (survey and design) stage of implementation by range and wildlife specialists.
7. The Wilderness and Recreation conflicts are resolved by performing maintenance of the existing seeding to its original boundary as long as the naturalness of the canyon is not adversely affected as seen from within the canyon.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple Use Recommendation (cont.):

8. The minerals conflicts will be created by surface disturbance activities (a) oil and gas, (b) geothermal, (c) community pits for sand and gravel, and (d) reserving material source areas that will remove the soil and vegetation. Coordinate range development activities with these activities to avoid treating areas that are scheduled for excavation in a time frame that eliminates effective cost recovery from treatment. Attach adequate revegetation stipulations to the leases.

9. Modify the recommendation on areas numbered 3 and 10 on Range URA IV-1.2 overlay to leave untreated areas and irregular patterns in the vegetation. All islands that were omitted from treatment in the initial treatment projects will remain untreated islands of brush in future maintenance projects. In areas 3 and 10 spraying will not be used within 1/2 mile of the agricultural land to avoid liability for damage to private property on nearby farms. Vegetation treatment projects within 1/2 mile of Salmon Falls Canyon will be designed to leave 15 percent of the project area untreated. The untreated area is to be irregular in pattern to create additional edge effect to improve the raptor prey base and wildlife species diversity. Projects will be specifically evaluated by Range, Wildlife and Watershed specialists to determine needed leave and problem areas that will be excluded from treatment.

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Step 1 RM-2.2 Step 3

Multiple Use Recommendation (cont.):

No.	Name	Acres	Increase AUM
<u>Priority #2</u>			
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	502	77
4098	Schnell-Salmon	148	15
<u>Priority #3</u>			
4041	Mule Creek	907	99
4042	Horse Creek	180	20
4044	South Mule Creek	241	23
4063	Soldier Creek	77	12
4092	South Big Creek	757	105
4102	Sharp-Lost Creek	80	15
<u>Dropped</u>			
4031	Western Stockgrowers		no system
4037	North Big Creek		good cond.
4040	Noh Sections		good cond.
4043	Frahm-PVGA		custodial
4097	Cameron		no system
4114	Squaw Joe-Iso.		no system
4119	Ridge		good cond.

Support Needs:

Complete the EIS and Benefit-cost analysis.

R. A. Staff -
Planning layout and design.

Advance coordination with IDFG.

Operations -
Contracting, project estimates,
performing the work this is not
contracted.

Administration -
Contracting

Archaeologist -
Cultural examinations.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept RM-2.2.
2. Reject RM-2.2.
3. Further modifications to exclude other projects and allotments.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Step 1 RM-2.2 Step 3

Decision:

Modify the multiple use recommendation to use any best method or combination of treatment methods that will meet the stated management objectives. Chemical treatment will be used only after careful study, coordination and consultation with all interested user groups.

Rationale:

Each site will be evaluated on a site-specific basis to determine the best treatment method or combination of methods that will meet the objectives described in MFP Step 1 and 2 recommendations. Each treatment will be planned in coordination with the species wildlife habitat needs indicated in WL-2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 2.12, and 4.2 and the Forestry recommendation F-1.1.

The acreage figures are estimates derived through the conflict analysis to provide for all resource values in the proposed treatments. Coordination and consultation are called for by FLPMA.

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
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Overlay Reference	Step 1 RM-2.3 Step 3

Recommendation:

RM-2.3 - Chemically treat and seed 14,656 acres of native rangeland to increase production for livestock forage and improve grazing conditions.

#	Name	Acres	Increase in AUM's
4003	Ellis-Tews Berger*	500	240
4019	Wrigley-Berger*	414	236
4031	Western Stockgrowers	1498	485
4034	Point Ranch	553	262
4035	Whiskey Creek	1947	770
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	863	398
4042	Horse Creek	145	58
4044	South Mule Creek	570	275
4053	Hub Butte-WSGA	74	40
4055	Hub Butte	269	97
4098	Schnell-Salmon	1239	586
4101	Magic Common	3925	2449
4106	Salmon Tract*	300	75
4119	Ridge	307	136

Rationale:

As stated in RM-2.1 and 2.2, inventory results show that 23 allotments are producing less livestock forage than has been previously allocated. Additionally, the present production will not meet the projected 70% increase in demand for AUM's by the year 2000.

Chemical treatment of sagebrush will reduce the brush competition of the vegetation and release moisture, space, and light. Seeding will provide the desirable forage species to take advantage of the moisture, space, and light. The Decision to include seeding in the treatment areas listed was based on a lack of availability of desirable native forage species.

The expected increases in capacity were determined by comparing the existing production of the proposed treatment areas with the production of similar seeded sites in excellent condition.

As stated in RM-2.2, chemical treatment was selected over burning due to an expected lack of fuel to carry fire. In some cases, fuel may become available and burning would be considered, as burning is more cost effective than spraying in most cases. Additionally, burning is a less controversial method of land treatment than spraying.

Support:

Resource Area Staff: (Layout)
Operations: (Treatment)
Administration: (Contracts)
Archeologist: (Cultural Clearance)

*Allotments with forage deficiencies

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Step 1 RM-2.3 Step 3

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify RM-2.3 -
Treat the areas in the following priority, eliminating those in the Drop category. Refer to the Multiple Use Analysis for rationale. All accepted treatments will be modified as shown in the Impact Analysis for RM-2.3, except WS-2.1. The treatments that are on severe erosion-susceptible soils will be examined during project design and layout for steepness of slope and present conditions. Areas that can be improved for watershed stability will be included in treatment.

Reasons:

These treatments can all be implemented without causing resource conflicts and there is site potential for increased forage production. There is an anticipated increase in future demand for all the resource values. The sites that are improved and maintained best meet current demands and are in a position to better meet future demands. The acres shown are modified from the proposals to meet other resources needs, especially wildlife habitat and visual.

No.	Name	Acres	Increase AUM's
<u>Priority #1</u>			
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	432	199
4106	Salmon Tract	150	38
4101	Magic Common	1,000	620
 <u>Priority #2</u>			
4098	Schnell-Salmon	620	293
4042	Horse Creek	73	29
4044	South Mule Creek	285	138
4119	Ridge	230	102
 <u>Priority #3</u>			
4034	Point Ranch	277	131
4035	Whiskey Creek	987	835
 <u>Drop</u>			
4003	Ellis-Tews Berger		
4019	Wrigley Berger		
4053	Hub Butte-WSGA		
4055	Hub Butte-Davis		
4131	Western Stockgrowers		

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Step 1 RM-2.3 Step 3

Support Needs:

Complete the EIS and benefit-cost analysis.

R. A. Staff -
Planning layout, survey, design,
develop AMPs.

Advance coordination with IDFG.

Operations -
Treatment, cost data, survey,
design contracting.

Administration -
Contracting, procurement.

Archaeologist -
Cultural examination.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject RM-2.3.
2. Accept RM-2.3.
3. Make additional or different modifications.

Decision:

Modify the multiple use recommendation to use any best method or combination of treatment methods that will meet the stated management objectives. When chemical treatment is selected it will be carefully studied and coordinated with user groups and in consultation with all interested groups.

Rationale:

These proposals will be closely coordinated with other resource values in each area. Emphasis will be to coordinate with identified wildlife habitat values in the areas. Watershed values are also high in some of these areas. Wherever watershed values (soil erosion) can be enhanced they will be given highest priority for improvement or protection. The acreage values are results of the conflict analysis and provide for all the resource values in each of the proposal areas.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Range Management
Overlay Reference	Step 1 RM-2.4 Step 3

Recommendation:

RM-2.4 Burn and seed 14,922 acres of native rangeland to increase production of livestock forage and improve grazing condition on the areas described below:

Rationale:

The treatments included in this recommendation will help to offset existing forage deficiencies and will help to meet the increases in demand for AUM's predicted for the next 20 years.

#	Name	Acres	AUM's
4001	Buhl Group-Berger*	402	141
4012	Lanting-Berger*	110	50
4013	Martens-Berger*	124	54
4015	Parrot-Berger	76	30
4016	PVGA-Berger*	345	158
4018	Smith-Berger	38	21
4031	Western Stockgrowers	155	63
4034	Point Ranch	2163	876
4035	Whiskey Creek	3599	1544
4044	South Mule Creek	295	153
4049	Peters	413	155
4066	Barton-Schutte	47	22
4074	Amsterdam-Kunkel	567	206
4098	Schnell-Salmon	3237	1508
4108	Lost Creek-U2*	79	20
4109	Salmon Tract-U2	280	84
4114	Squaw Joe	1140	313
4120	Gravel Pit-Salmon	700	97
4121	Section 22	160	43
4119	Ridge	269	139
4122	Highway Unit	113	43
4125	ISO Tract Kunkel	70	27

Removal of sagebrush will reduce the brush competition of the vegetation and release moisture, space and light. Seeding will provide the desirable forage species not present in the existing composition.

The expected increases in capacity were determined by comparing the existing production of the proposed treatment areas with the production of similar seeded sites in excellent condition.

Burning was selected because of expected fuel availability to carry fire and cost involved. Should the expected fuel not materialize, spraying would work on the areas listed.

Burning is less controversial than spraying.

Support:

Resource Area Staff: (Layout)

Fire Crew: (Burning)

Administration: (Contracting)

Operations: (Seeding)

Archeologist: (Cultural Clearance)

*Allotments with forage deficiencies

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)