

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference	
Step	WL-4.5 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Maintain the habitat in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon for the nesting and brood rearing of endangered, sensitive and high interest raptors.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Assistance in reducing and/or abating livestock grazing in the canyon.
- Recreation - Assistance in implementing the recommendation to provide pleasing aesthetic values to sportsmen.
- Archaeology - Assistance in implementing recommendations to protect cultural resources.
- Watershed - Assistance in implementing recommendation to enhance watershed.
- Wildlife - Maintain optimum raptor habitat in Salmon Falls Canyon. Work with other resources in protecting this area.

RATIONALE:

Salmon Falls Creek canyon exhibits a unique concentration of nesting raptors, including golden eagles, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, American kestrels, Great-horned owls, barn owls, etc. To date, ten different raptorial species have been observed nesting on public land in the canyon. In 1980, 19 pairs of golden eagles, 19 pairs of prairie falcons and 22 pairs of red-tailed hawks were observed nesting in the area.<sup>1</sup> For the 45 linear miles of public land along Salmon Falls Creek, the following data was derived.

Year	Number of		
	Nesting Pairs	Number of Species	Density
1979	29	5	.6/linear mile
1980	67	6	1.5/linear mile

This data is not all inclusive.

Several "sensitive" and numerous high interest raptorial species inhabit Salmon Falls canyon. The Bald Eagle, an endangered species, has been observed in the canyon during the winter (Linda Parsons, Personal Observation 1-9-81), and near the canyon at other times of the year.

According to the Twin Falls County survey, 26.8 percent of the individuals surveyed were against grazing and ORV use in Salmon Falls Canyon. They felt that the canyon from Salmon Dam downstream to Balanced Rock should be managed as a special management area with no livestock grazing or ORV recreation allowed.

<sup>1</sup> Western Environmental Research Associates (WERA). 1980. INVENTORY OF THE THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES IN THE BURLEY BLM DISTRICT. Pocatello, Idaho.

<sup>2</sup> Burley District Memo. 1607. RESULTS OF THE TWIN FALLS SURVEY. November 19, 1980.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse

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Name (MFP) Twin Falls
Activity Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference Step 1 WL-4.7 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (Decision)

Improve raptor habitat by modifying selected sections of power lines and/or poles to prevent electrocution hazard. Place future power lines underground if possible.

SUPPORT:

Recreation - Assistance with lands and wildlife in location and/or design of power lines, power poles, etc. to enhance aesthetic values.

Lands - Insure that all future power-line right-of-ways and right-of-way renewals conform to raptor proof specifications.

Wildlife - Work with lands to insure that powerlines conform to raptor proof specifications.

RATIONALE:

Eagles and raptors tend to use power poles in areas where natural perches are lacking. In the Planning Unit, very few perch sites, other than power poles, are available to the high population of raptors in the area. The design of power lines should be altered to prevent electrocutions. Since an electrocuted eagle frequently causes an interruption in transmission, such alterations should also be beneficial to the power companies by reducing the time they need to repair such power outages. In many cases, the entire line will not have to be modified but only sections of a line and/or related poles. Raptors tend to select preferred poles and these must be raptor proofed. New power lines should be placed underground, if possible, or constructed according to specifications which eliminate electrocutions. Raptor proof power line construction specifications are outlined in the following publication:

Miller, D., Boeker, E. L., Thorsell, R. S. and Olendorff, R. R. 1975. SUGGESTED PRACTICES FOR RAPTOR PROTECTION ON POWER-LINES. Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., for Edison Electric Institute.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation. Modification of powerlines to prevent raptor electrocutions will help to protect existing raptor populations in the Planning Unit.

Installation of underground powerlines across public land in the Planning Unit would be expensive to the power companies involved. Power companies have indicated that underground lines are cost prohibitive for major transmission lines.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (W/P)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Raptors
Overlay Reference	Step WL-4.8 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Protect abandoned mine shafts, tunnels, caves, cliff areas and ponds and their associated riparian vegetation to enhance spotted bat habitat.

SUPPORT:

- Minerals - Assistance in protection of recommended areas to protect minerals.
- Recreation - Assistance in protection of recommended areas for non-consumptive recreational uses.
- Archaeology - Assistance in implementation of recommendation to protect cultural resources.
- Wildlife - Coordinate the protection of these areas with the other resources.

RATIONALE:

The spotted bat is a "sensitive" species. It has been collected most often in desert terrain that is rough and dry.<sup>1</sup> This species might be found in caves.<sup>2</sup> This is why it is important to protect abandoned mine shafts, tunnels and cave areas. The spotted bat normally roosts in rocky crevices of canyon and cliff walls.<sup>3</sup> Any type of water impoundment would only be beneficial to spotted bats, especially if located in close association to roosting sites. Spotted bats prefer to feed on insects found on and adjacent to ponds in arid areas. Pond developments and the encouragement of aquatic vegetation would support numerous insect populations and hence enhance spotted bat habitat. Since the spotted bat is a "sensitive" species, we are obligated to give it some special management consideration.

- <sup>1</sup> Watkins, L. C. 1977. Euderma maculatum. Mammalogy Special Note 77.
- <sup>2</sup> Vorhies, C. J. 1935. THE ARIZONA SPECIMEN OF Euderma maculatum. Journal of Mammalogy. 16:224-226.
- Hardy, R. 1941. SOME NOTES OF UTAH BATS. Journal of Mammalogy. 22:289-295.
- <sup>3</sup> Easterla, D. A. 1973. ECOLOGY OF THE 18 SPECIES OF CHIROPTERA AT BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS. Northwest Missouri State University Study. 34(2 & 3).
- Easterla, D. A. 1976. NOTES ON THE SECOND AND THIRD NEWBORN OF THE SPOTTED BAT, Euderma maculatum, AND COMMENTS ON THE SPECIES IN TEXAS. American Midland Naturalist. 96:499-501.
- Poche, R. M. and Ruffner, G. A. 1975. ROOSTING BEHAVIOR OF MALE Euderma maculatum FROM UTAH. Great Basin Naturalist. 35:121-122.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
ACTIVITY	Wildlife - Non-Game
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-4.9 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: *(Decision)*

Plant windbreak, cluster plantings of various fruits and berry-producing plants and other vegetative species, as they become identified on a site-by-site basis, in the wildlife enclosures in the Planning Unit to increase the food base and to enhance wildlife habitat for all nongame wildlife species. Protect fence rows, shorelines, streambanks and odd areas for wildlife. Retain islands of brush and promptly initiate reseeding projects on burned, chained, drilled, plowed, sprayed, etc. areas to provide food and cover for all wildlife species. Include a minimum of the following species in reseedings:

- - fourwing saltbush
- - ladak alfalfa
- - small burnett
- - wheatgrasses

SUPPORT:

- Range - Protection of certain areas and retention of brush islands in all land treatment projects.
- Operations - Vegetative plantings and layout of brush retention areas for wildlife.
- Recreation - Assistance in implementation of recommendation to provide pleasing aesthetic value and for non-consumptive recreational uses.
- Watershed - Assistance in implementation of recommendation to reduce wind erosion.
- Wildlife - Coordination with range and operations in location and design of plantings and brush retention areas.

RATIONALE:

Food for non-game wildlife species consists of a variety of items. The type and amount of cover required by non-game mammalian species is variable. For non-game birds, cover is an important factor in their life. It provides nesting, brood-rearing, escape and protection from the elements. It is important to enhance non-game avian habitat because a loss of suitable habitat is in direct conflict with bird populations. Many non-game wildlife species fulfill an important function as major prey species for avian and mammalian predators. Many of these non-game species are endemic to certain vegetative types. Trees and shrubs are necessary for some song bird migrations. Any disruption of their narrow ecological niche results in the disappearance or reduction of this particular species. By planting various vegetative species and protecting existing vegetative areas, non-game wildlife species will be insured of having suitable habitat required for their survival. In the Twin Falls County survey, 17.9 percent of the people surveyed were in favor of emphasizing the wildlife program on public land.<sup>1</sup> This shows that there is a true interest in the Planning Unit for wildlife preservation and enhancement. It is in the non-game area that BLM can show a true multiple use philosophy of land use management.

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife - Non-Game

Overlap Reference

Step 1 WL-4.10rep 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Enhance wildlife habitat for non-game species by implementing the following for livestock management:

- for seeded areas, avoid more than the following utilization percentages:
  - 40 percent utilization for spring use,
  - 60 percent utilization for summer use,
  - 60 percent utilization for fall and winter use;
- for native ranges of key species, avoid more than the following utilization percentages:
  - 30 percent utilization of spring use,
  - 40 percent utilization of summer use,
  - 50 percent utilization of fall and winter use;
- increase plant vigor and seed and forage production of desirable plants via seed trampling and management systems.

RATIONALE:

By not allowing more than the recommended utilization, this will insure that sufficient vegetation will be available to provide adequate nesting, forage, cover, etc. for non-game animals. It is imperative that the habitat be maintained, especially, to provide for small mammal needs because many of these animals have very small home ranges and cannot move to the "rest" areas. Non-game habitat will be greatly improved by increasing plant vigor and seed and forage production of desirable plants.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Management of livestock to adhere to recommended utilization percentages.
- Recreation - Coordination with range in implementing this recommendation to provide pleasing aesthetic value of the landscape.
- Watershed - Coordination with range in implementing this recommendation to enhance watershed values.
- Wildlife - Work with range in following recommended utilization for enhancement of non-game wildlife habitat.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-4.11 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with lands L-3.1 which identifies areas including enclosures to be developed for agriculture. Fire F-1.4 includes these areas in the Berger limited suppression area. Range RM-2.1 includes these areas in seeding maintenance proposals. The water for these enclosures and the proposed playa pipeline come from the Berger pipeline system. Pumping and operation of this system is paid for by the livestock permittees using the system. Use of water for wildlife at periods when livestock are not in the area could be a problem from a monetary standpoint.

The cost of power for running water to the enclosures based on 1980 power costs would be \$50 per enclosure. A wet area in the playa could be maintained for about \$200 per year for pumping cost.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-4.11.

Reasons:

Supplying water to the enclosures and playa will ensure a water source for wildlife species in the area at times when water is in limited supply.

Support Needs:

Wildlife -  
Develop agreement with Berger Water Association.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-4.11.

Decision:

Modify the multiple-use recommendation.

Do not provide water to the playa area.

Rationale:

Provide water to the seven listed wildlife enclosures.

The playa supports a sensitive plant species (*Lepidium davisii*). Running water onto the playa would increase livestock and wildlife use resulting in possible injury to the plants.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Name (BEP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife - Non-Game

Overlay Reference

Step WL-4.11 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Enhance cover and provide water for wildlife by:

- (1) maintaining running water into the seven wildlife enclosures on the Berger;

L & W  
Parrott  
Lierman  
Kaster  
Koch  
Point S  
Martens

from 4/1 through 9/30 each year.;

- (2) installing three-fourths mile of pipeline to provide water to the playa area in

T. 11 S., R. 14 E.

Sec. 33: NE1/4 SW1/4

and then construction of a fence to protect the area from grazing.

RATIONALE:

By providing water to the wildlife enclosures on the Berger and to the playa area, there will be increased food, cover and water supply to all wildlife species. This habitat enhancement project will also expand the range of several non-game species which require water daily. Since livestock tend to concentrate in wet areas construction of a fence around the playa will protect it from livestock grazing and trampling. Since the playa is a unique area it should be protected.

SUPPORT:

Operations - Installation of pipeline to the playa area and fence construction.

Recreation - Assistance in implementing this recommendation to provide pleasing aesthetic values and recreational opportunities.

Archaeology - Assistance in implementing this recommendation to protect cultural resources.

Watershed - Assistance in implementing this recommendation to enhance watershed.

Wildlife - Coordination with range in leaving water turned on for the wildlife enclosures and in the development of the playa area.

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Form BL-4.11-4 April 1975

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Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Non-Game
Overlay Reference	Step WL-4.12 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION: (*Decision*)

Install bird guzzlers in the following locations and at future locations as they become identified.

T. 14 S., R. 15 E.  
Sec. 26: E1/2 NE1/4 - Yraugi Sections

T. 11 S., R. 17 E.  
Sec. 28: SE1/4 SE1/4 - Hub Butte  
or  
Sec. 33: NE1/4 NE1/4

T. 12 S., R. 16 E.  
Sec. 13: SE1/4 SW1/4 - Landing Strip

T. 12 S., R. 16 E.  
Sec. 35: NW1/4 - Gravel Pits

T. 11 S., R. 14 E.  
Sec. 36 - Berger (pending acquisition)

Install bird guzzlers on existing and future pipelines as they become identified. Modify existing and design future water developments to make water readily available at ground level to all wildlife species. Install wildlife escape ramps on all existing and future livestock watering developments. Fence wildlife waters to prevent use by livestock.

SUPPORT:

Range - Identification of the location of existing and future pipelines and livestock watering developments.

Operations - Construction and installation of bird guzzlers, wildlife escape ramps and fences.

RATIONALE:

Water collection and storage facilities, "bird guzzlers," should be constructed at strategic locations in order to provide year-long water for wildlife. The guzzler would provide water during the summer and fall periods when free water is not as readily available. The installation of bird guzzlers on pipelines would provide available water for sole use by wildlife. Modification of water developments and installation of wildlife escape ramps is important to all wildlife species. These developments would enhance water availability.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)