

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name: MFF

Twin Falls

Agency:

Range Management

Objective Number

RM-1

Objective:

Implement over the next 10 years, management systems to increase the amount of livestock forage produced by 1507 AUM's while improving the quality of desired vegetation and improving or maintaining condition and trend over the next 30 years.

Rationale:

This is a long term objective designed to solve problems of over obligation and deteriorating range condition identified in URA Step 3 by increasing production, improving 23,282 acres by one condition class, reverse downward trend on 21,888 acres, change 65,398 from static to upward trend and increase the use of the vegetative resource. The objective fulfills the URA Step 4 opportunities for increasing production and improving or maintaining condition and trend through management systems.

BLM Manual 1602.12 states a Bureau objective to "Protect the lands, resources, environment and public values therein from avoidable destruction, abuse and deterioration, and correct past abuses to the extent feasible".

BLM Manual 1603.12G4C states that "To the extent funds and manpower are available, AMP's will be made for all public lands which can reasonably be expected to remain in Federal ownership for multiple-use management and on which livestock grazing is a significant use".

Section 2 of the Taylor Grazing Act directs the Bureau, in part, to preserve the land and its resources from destruction or unnecessary injury, to provide for the orderly use, improvement and development of the range.

Section 2(b)(2) of PRIA (PL 95-514) further re-emphasizes the need for management of the public land to maintain and improve the condition and productivity.

Stoddard et al¹ states that "Continuous grazing wherein livestock are placed on the range and allowed to remain yearlong or throughout the grazing season has been shown to result in undesirable successional changes in range forage. To prevent this, specialized systems of grazing management have been used widely".

¹Stoddard, Laurence A.; Smith, Arthur D.; and Box, Thadis W. 1975. Range Management 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.

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 RM-1.1 Step 3

Visual Resource Management Recommendation supports establishing grazing systems to limit livestock use of riparian/wetland areas along streams and around reservoirs and springs. The allotments specifically supported are Western Stockgrowers, Magic Common and Point Ranch.

Wildlife supports implementing grazing systems in: 1) the Point Ranch and Whiskey Creek Allotments to provide improved critical mule deer and antelope habitat; 2) Western Stockgrowers and Magic Common Allotment to improve and maintain dense brushy habitat for upland game; 3) all allotments with riparian/wetland habitat to improve the condition; 4) all allotments with streams or ponds to improve waterfowl nesting habitat; and 5) all allotments to enhance non-game habitat.

These deferred rotation systems are recommended as a measure to maintain present range and ecological condition classes. These systems are predicted to yield an increase of about 5 percent in forage production. Of the 59,358 acres in fair or poor ecological condition, 17,178 acres would be expected to improve by one condition class. All acres would be expected to improve in condition, but not through the whole range of a condition class.

Season of use, variation in physical features, existing fences, and needs of the operators are some of the reasons for selecting the alternative of implementing deferred-rotation grazing systems. These systems will be designed to satisfy the physiological growth and reproduction requirements of the vegetative resources as monitored through the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) development process.

All allotments except Hub Butte-Davis, Fuller, and Cameron are producing adequate forage to satisfy the active grazing preference demand as allocated in RM-3.1. Hub Butte-Davis and Fuller Allotments are recommended for seeding maintenance by burning to reduce sagebrush competition to raise the production level to the grazing preference, RM-2.1. The Cameron Allotment does not have the potential for further increases without vegetation changes from brush to perennial grass.

(Decision)
Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify RM-1.1 -
Implement deferred-rotation grazing systems on the allotments listed.

Reasons:

The physiological needs of the plants and the management needs of the operators will be satisfied so that

*OK
MC
5-14-87*

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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-1.1 Step 3

11
DEC
ROT.

Multiple Use Analysis

Multiple Use Recommendation (cont.):

Refer to the following modification for the change from Step 1.

Reasons (cont.):

range condition, trend, and production is improved or maintained and other multiple use values are not adversely affected.

No.	Name	Pastures	Acres
4034	Point Ranch	3	33,453
4035	Whiskey Creek	6	18,719
4040	Noh Sections	6	1,455
4044	South Mule Creek	3	3,018
4046	Griff <i>Dr</i>	3	2,244
4049	Peters	4	1,213
4055	Hub Butte-Davis	4	800
4057	Fuller	4	1,070
4066	Barton-Schutte	2	1,611
4101	Magic Common	2	9,168
4114	Squaw Joe	2	1,133
	<i>Squaw Joe</i>	3	4,809
4120	Gravel Pit-Salmon Tract	2	700
	Total		79,393

Modification -

Drop the following listed allotments and manage as stated:

4097 Cameron - Change to custodial management. The proposed well and pipeline are needed before the system can be implemented. The cost is too high for the benefit and the public lands are located where grazing will not cause damage to them in custodial management.

4031 Western Stockgrowers - Change to seasonal use. The proposed system cannot be implemented without range improvements and facilities that would cost in excess of \$230,000. Range studies and inventories show that the only resource concern is the condition of the riparian habitat and water quality in McMullen Creek. Management practices that will be applied are to manage the livestock balance between

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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-1.1 Step 3

the east and west sides of the allotment and have the operators practice herding to keep livestock use light in McMullen Creek. The proposed water development facilities will be needed to help keep livestock from having to use McMullen Creek and the Fifth Fork of Rock Creek.

4053 Hub Butte - WSGA remain in the existing rest-rotation grazing system. This allotment is part of the Western Stockgrowers and was proposed to be included in the deferred rotation system that is being dropped from further consideration.

4074 Amstredam Kunkel - Change to seasonal use. Analysis of the facilities that are needed to implement the proposed system would cost in excess of \$30,000. The multiple use objectives can be maintained without the maximum development. Production of the allotment will be about 216 AUMs less each year than at its maximum. The allotment is presently producing at a level above the grazing preference.

The rationale for adding 4114 Squaw Joe is in RM-1.2.

OK
9-14-87

Support Needs:

- Complete EIS
- Prepare AMPs
 - Develop water sources.
 - Construct control projects.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject the RM-1.1.
2. Implement rest-rotation.
3. Allow present grazing practices to continue.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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-1.2 Step 3

1.2
RES
ROT

Recommendation:

RM-1.2 - Implement rest-rotation grazing systems on the following allotments:

#	Name	Pasture	Acres	AUMs
4079	Lilly Grade	4	1644	13
4092	South Big Cr.	3	1549	25
4108	Lost Cr.-U2	3	1792	14
4114	Squaw Joe	4	5942	51
			10,923	103

See map (MFP-100)
STR: III

Rationale:

The proposal for the 5 allotments listed is to give a portion of the range complete rest from grazing for one year. This period of rest allows the forage species to vigor, produces seed, and establish new seedlings.

It is predicted that 6,104 acres will improve by one condition class. This prediction is based on an expected 6% increase in forage production as described under RM-1.1. The remaining 6,466 acres will be expected to improve, but not enough to move up one full condition class. An additional 131 AUM's of livestock forage would be produced as a result of implementing the management. Implementation of rest-rotation systems will stabilize the turn-out-dates for the operators involved. The carry over of forage in the previous years rest pasture allows for earlier turn-out the following year.

Support:

- ATROW: (Easements)
- Resource Area Staff: (System Preparation & monitoring)
- Operations: (Improvements)

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any activity recommendations and is supported by the wildlife activity.

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-1.2 Step 3

WL-3.1 lists range as needed support for the recommendation to improve and maintain wetland/riparian habitat by developing and implementing intensive livestock grazing systems.

WL-3.5 lists range as needed support to improve shorebird and waterfowl nesting habitat by developing and implementing grazing systems to restrict livestock use along shorelines.

WL-4.10 lists range as needed support to enhance wildlife habitat for non-game species by managing livestock grazing to adhere to recommended utilization allowances.

These rest-rotation systems are recommended as a method to improve native ranges through manipulation of livestock grazing. It is estimated that the ecologic condition will be improved by one class on 2,421 acres. All acres are predicted to improve but the remaining 2,566 will not improve through the range of a whole condition class. Another advantage to livestock management is that spring turnout dates will be stabilized from year-to-year by designing the systems so that spring grazing occurs in the previous year's rested pasture.

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reasons:

Modify RM-1.2 -
Implement rest-rotation grazing management systems on the allotments listed:

Many resource needs will be met wholly or in part by implementing grazing systems that satisfy the physiological growth and reproduction requirements of the key vegetative species.

No.	Name	Pastures Acres	
4079	Lilly Grade	4	1,644
4092	South Big Creek	3	1,549
4108	Lost Creek-U2	3	1,792
			<u>4,985</u>

Modification:

4114 Squaw Joe - This allotment was dropped from this recommendation and added to RM-1.1 deferred rotation. The physical location of pastures

*OK
ML
9-14-87*

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 April 1977

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-1.3 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis (cont.)

project. During the frequent drought years of the last decade sagebrush has been invading the seedings and some native range areas at an accelerating rate in spite of good grazing management.

This recommendation to continue the existing rest-rotation systems is not in conflict with any activity and is supported by two wildlife recommendations for the need to improve wetland/riparian habitat.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reasons:

Modify RM-1.3 -
Continue the existing rest rotation systems until range studies show that another form of management will better achieve the multiple use objectives:

Experience in grazing management has shown that when an area or allotment is suitable for rest-rotation management it is nearly always the best system to maintain desirable vegetation to meet multiple use objectives. The Pleasant Valley Grazing Association President has requested that they may want the Frahm Allotment dropped from the AMP since only 15 percent of the land is public land. The directors will confer and make a decision when appropriate.

No.	Name	Acres
4001	Buhl Group-Berger	4,415
4003	Ellis-Tews-Berger	9,768
4006	Kaster-Berger	1,510
4007	Kunkel-Berger	1,516
4010	M.Lierman-Berger	640
4012	Lanting-Berger	3,233
4015	Parrott-Berger	1,478
4016	PVGA-Berger	7,389
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	6,666
4041	Mule Creek-PVGA	7,014
4042	Horse Creek-PVGA	3,322
4043	Frahm-PVGA	696
4053	Hub Butte-WSGA	4,268
4054	Salmon Tract-Ind.	80
4071	Jones-Goat Springs	1,386
4073	West Kunkel	1,517
		54,898

The rationale for adding 4308 Hub Butte-WSGA is contained in RM-1.1.

Further modify the recommendation to allow changing the Frahm Allotment to custodial if the operators desire. The public land is about 15 percent of the capacity in the allotment and located where grazing damage is not likely to occur.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.

R
R

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (W.F.P.)
Twin Falls

Activity
Range Management

Overlay Reference
Step 1 RM-1.3 Step 3

Support Needs:

R. A. Staff -
Monitor and evaluate.

ATROW -
Easements

Land treatment to periodically reduce competition from sagebrush. Requires coordination with other resources in the areas.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject RM-1.3.
2. Deferred rotation systems.
3. Continuous grazing.
4. Repeated early spring grazing.
5. Repeated fall grazing.
6. Reduce intensity of use.

Decision:

Modify the multiple use recommendation by dropping the Frahm-PVGA (4043) and adding it to the list in RM-1.6.

OK
RL
9-14-87

Rationale:

These systems are reportedly doing the job of resource management that they were intended. Studies do show that some of the existing AMPs need intensive evaluation and revision in many cases. These AMPs will be evaluated and revised as needed. The Frahm Allotment (No. 4043) will be dropped from the existing Pleasant Valley Grazing Association AMP and managed according to the custodial allotment criteria. Activity plans will be developed where they do not currently exist.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 April 1977

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 1RM-1.4 Step 3

Recommendation:

RM-1.4 - Continue to use the existing deferred-rotation systems on the following allotments:

4000	Babcock-Berger	607
4002	Kerr-Berger	2229
4004	Chadwick-Berger	1360
4005	Koch-Berger	948
4008	Lassen-Berger	640
4009	Lierman-Berger	720
4011	Lierman-Wegener	2044
4013	Martens Bros.-Berger	839
4014	Noh-Berger	5105
4017	Berger-Schnitker	400
4018	Smith-Berger	320
4019	Wrigley-Berger	1955 1675
4023	J. E. Baker Deep Cr.	3339
4024	J. E. Baker Lost Cr.	2598
4039	Noh-White Rock	1597
4076	Loughmiller	1675
4098	Schnell-Salmon Tr.	15,121
4102	Lost Creek	1002
4119	Ridge	6823
		<u>49,322</u>
		077
4000	Kerr-Berger	210
		47355

Rationale:

The recommendation for the 19 allotments listed is to continue to postpone grazing on a portion of the range on an alternating basis until after seed ripe of the key forage species. This deferment will allow the plants to complete growth and reproduction.

High erosion does not present a problem on any of the allotments included in this recommendation.

Allotments 4000 thru 4023 are almost entirely seeded to crested wheatgrass. Natural reinvasion of sagebrush into these seedings has resulted in downward trend and fair or poor condition ratings. No system will stop this natural process.

The six other allotments are largely in good condition with static to upward trend over most of the range.

1.4

Support:

Resource Area Staff: (Monitoring)
ATROW: (Easements)