UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity
Range Management

Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

INDIAN ALLOTMENT (0415)

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
RM 2.1 Determine carrying capacity for National Resource Lands and private and state lands offered for exchange of use license, and adjust stocking rates accordingly.	The URA indicates that adequate forage is not available to satisfy the present Class I demand (see 1605.44A2c(5)(a)). Present policy provides that "Initial stocking rates...must not exceed the existing livestock grazing capacity...". (WO Instruction Memo 75-407). Idaho's 5-year goals are to bring livestock use in line with existing grazing capacity for those areas in less than satisfactory condition as a result of excessive livestock use. It is anticipated that the present forage production capacities can be interpolated from Soil & Vegetative data to be gathered during the summer of 1976 and succeeding years.

Multiple-use Analysis

URA indicated stocking rates may be in excess of the carrying capacity. This recommendation could result in reduction of grazing use and would, therefore, have an adverse economic impact on the livestock operations. With proper management and/or land treatment part of this impact may be mitigated over the long-term.

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendations.

Supporting recommendations include the following: watershed, W 1.2, 1.3, 3.2, 5.2; wildlife, WL 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 6.3, 8.2, 8.3, 11.1, 12.1, 13.3; recreation, R 2.1, 3.2; range management, RM 1 & 2.2 (0415).

Multiple-Use Recommendations	Reasons
Accept the recommendations as stated above.	1. The stocking rates must be reasonably close to the carrying capacity to implement a rotation-grazing system that will improve range condition. 2. Herbaceous vegetative cover left on site will reduce erosion and improve water quality. 3. Competition for forage with all wildlife species will be reduced and minimum cover requirements will be left for wildlife.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
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Activity
Range Management

Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

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RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
RM 1 & 2.2 Implement an AMP with a rest-rotation grazing system that will provide for plant vigor, seed production, seed tromp, and seedling establishment of native key forage species. (See URA Step 4 for the minimum acceptable grazing system.)	Supplemental guidance states that "AMPs 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." (1603.12G4c). The present grazing use does not provide for the physiological need of native forage plants. Implementing a grazing system which provides for the plant's physiological needs will increase the density and vigor of the native forage species and thereby improve range conditions and increase forage production to maximum potential. An estimated 630 additional AUMs can be produced annually within a 15- 20 year period with proper management.
Include both sheep and cattle in the grazing system.	The impact of grazing on the vegetation is the same regardless of class of grazing animal. Dual use, where sheep graze in early spring followed by late spring cattle use, causes heavy utilization of the vegetation and result in deteriorated range conditions if not properly regulated.
Adjust grazing use so that not more than 50 percent of the Class I demand is utilized prior to seed ripe of the key species.	Presently 2/3 of the Class I demand is used during the critical spring growing season which overloads the forage producing capacity of the vegetation at that time. Adjusting spring-use to use of the seed ripe would increase the opportunity for seed tromp requirements.

Support Needs:

Improve and provide additional access in the allotment to facilitate use supervision and livestock movement.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would result in adjustment of spring use allowed from 2/3 of the qualified demand, to 1/2 of the qualified demand, and a reduction in grazing area during the spring season. This adjustment would most likely result in reduced use in the allotment and would, therefore, have an adverse economic impact on the range users. In addition, less flexibility in livestock movements could restrict the grazing operation. Long-term benefits in terms of increased forage production from improved management would partially offset the reduction in use resulting from the adjustment to carrying capacity, as proposed in range management (0415) RM 2.1.

Wildlife, WL 1.1, 8.2, 12.1 identify the need to retain 40- 50 percent of the herbaceous vegetation produced each year on each pasture. This conflicts with the recommended grazing system because utilization on some pastures would likely exceed 60 percent. Wildlife, WL 6.2, 9.1, 13.1 identify the need to exclude livestock grazing on wet meadows, springs, and streams in the allotment. This would reduce the availability of high quality forage and restrict access to water which would increase the existing livestock distribution problems. Lands, L 3.1A proposes disposal of Class I and II irrigable lands in the allotment if they meet the appropriate classification requirements for agricultural use. Such action would result in loss of a large amount of the important spring range in the allotment. Disposal of the land would disrupt the recommended grazing system. Minerals, M 1.2 proposes to lease the potential geothermal resources in the allotment. Should an economic source of geothermal energy be found and developed, livestock grazing would be restricted because development would require ~~about~~ 1/3 of the leased area.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: Wildlife, WL 1.4, 2.1; recreation, R 2.1. These conflicting proposals should be addressed at the time the AMP is implemented to insure all resource values are given proper consideration.

Supporting recommendations include the following: wildlife, WL 6.3, 8.3, 9.2, 12.2; watershed, W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; recreation, R 2.1.

Multiple-Use Recommendations	Reasons
Modify the recommendation to include the following provisions in addition to those stated above:	
1. Do not exceed 60 percent utilization of herbaceous vegetation in any pasture where grazing occurs.	Adequate herbaceous vegetation should be left to provide adequate forage and cover for all wildlife, including deer, elk, and upland game birds, and to provide litter to protect the soil from the erosive forces of nature.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Multiple-Use Recommendations (continued)	Reasons (continued)
	It is not anticipated that this restriction will seriously impact grazing since livestock gains normally begin to decline after 60 per cent of the forage has been utilized.
2. Protect wet meadows, springs, streams, and canals from intensive livestock use which normally occurs as follows:	
Springs: Coordinate protection with wildlife needs. Where significant wildlife values are identified, fence spring source area to exclude livestock and make water available to livestock outside the exclosure.	Livestock congregating on spring source areas denude vegetation essential to sage grouse broods and other wildlife species.
Wet meadows: After implementation of a grazing system, fence wet meadows to exclude livestock only where it is demonstrated after one or two grazing cycles that significant wildlife habitat is being destroyed by livestock grazing.	It is anticipated that damage caused by livestock grazing will be mitigated by implementation of a proper grazing system.
Streams & canals: Fence streams where major critical waterfowl nesting areas and fisheries potential are identified. Provide water gaps no farther than 1/2 mile apart.	Grazing livestock utilize and destroy riparian vegetation needed for waterfowl nesting and fisheries habitat.
3. Allow disposal of lands within Class I and II irrigation potential classification.	Livestock grazing is the primary resource affected with all other resources affected to a minor degree. Conversion of this area to agriculture would provide greater economic stability to the locale than presently produced by the existing resource use.
4. Allow mineral leasing.	Restriction of livestock grazing by geothermal development is improbable, but if it occurs it should be allowed because of the greater value generated to the local and regional economy by mineral development.
Support needs: Accept the recommendations as stated above. Acquire easement on private lands.	

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Name (MFP)
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Activity
Range Management

Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

INDIAN ALLOTMENT (0415)

RECOMMENDATION

RM 1 & 2.3
Adjust allotment boundaries to include within the Indian Allotment all National Resource Lands in the Mink Allotment.

RATIONALE

The Mink Allotment is too small to logically and feasibly divide and implement a rotation grazing system on that will provide for the physiological requirements of the perennial vegetation. The vegetation can be more effectively managed to reach Bureau range condition goals if allotments are combined because of the opportunity to implement a more effective grazing system. Administration and supervision costs will be reduced where one allotment is involved rather than two. The impact of this action on the allottee can be mitigated by transfer of grazing privileges between the allottees in King Hill Allotment, since both allottees would have use in the two allotments.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would have no significant economic impact on the operators in the two allotments. However, the Mink Allotment user would lose some utility with regard to use of his private lands currently fenced with the National Resource Lands in the allotment.

Combining the allotments would not conflict with any other activity recommendations.

The recommendation is supported by the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 6.3, 8.3, 9.2, 12.2; watershed, W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; recreation, R 3.2.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the recommendation as stated above.

Reasons

The area would be included and managed with a more effective grazing system than could be devised in the present allotment, which will result in beneficial impact to wildlife, watershed, and recreation resources.

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UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

INDIAN ALLOTMENT (0415)

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
RM 1 & 2.4 Remove competing brush species on approximately 1,000 acres, and remove brush and seed approximately 2,940 acres of National Resource Land to release and establish desirable perennial forage species.	These treatments, combined with management, are needed to meet the objectives within a reasonable timeframe of 10- 15 years. Approximately 500 additional AUMs will be produced annually from the treatment.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation would result in an increase in forage production. The increase would partially offset expected losses of allowable grazing use resulting from the adjustments recommended in range management (0415) RM 1.1 (adjust stocking rate to grazing capacity). Thus a positive economic impact would occur. Where wildlife values are involved, the Idaho Fish & Game Dept. will be consulted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between that agency and the Bureau.

This recommendation is in conflict with the recreation, R 4.1, 4.2, 14.6, 14.15, and minerals, M 1.2, which would restrict or constrain layout and method of land treatments. The recreation conflicts involve the visual impact of land treatment and the affect the recommended treatments would have on archaeological sites. The minerals conflict involves the restriction on land treatments which would occur should development of geothermal resources take place.

The recommendation conflicts with wildlife, WL 7.1 which would prohibit any land treatment on sage grouse wintering areas. This would reduce the potential livestock forage obtainable through implementation of the recommended treatments. Lands, L 3.1A could also prohibit any land treatment because it proposes disposal of land for agricultural purposes, providing they meet classification criteria.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 2.8, 9.2, 11.1; and recreation, R 2.1. These conflicting proposals will be addressed prior to implementation of land treatments to insure all resource values involved are adequately considered.

Supporting activity recommendations include the following: WL 1.2, 1.3, 6.1, 12.2 13.3; W 1.4, 1.5, 5.2; R 3.2, 13.1; RM 1 & 2.2 (0415).

Multiple-Use Recommendations	Reasons
Accept and modify the recommendation	

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Multiple-Use Recommendations (continued) Reasons (continued)

to subject brush removal and seeding proposals to the following constraints before projects are started.	
1. Implement an allotment management plan with a sound and acceptable grazing system.	Sound management is needed to assure success of revegetation projects and to protect the investment made in the project. Disruption of livestock use can be minimized by planning treatments within grazing pastures and in accord with the grazing sequence. This is BLM policy.
2. Coordinate all land treatment proposals with wildlife, watershed, and recreation activities to assure all multiple-use conflicts are mitigated. Criteria to be used in mitigating conflicts are found in Appendix I (MFP Step II).	On-site information is not adequate to identify specific conflicts and resulting impacts at this time. This requires that no projects be started until on-site inspections can be made and impacts of the project on the multiple-use values are determined and mitigated. Projects which alter the vegetation have long-term impacts and must be coordinated so as not to destroy other resource values.
3. Allow coordinated land treatment on sage grouse winter range.	The need to produce livestock forage to minimize the economic impact of the anticipated reduction in stocking rate (RM 2.1 (0416)) is considered to be as important as the need for increased sage grouse populations. Proposed brush treatments should be closely coordinated to allow only brush removal that is not critical to sage grouse winter habitat.
4. Propose no land treatments on lands that have Class I and II irrigation potential pending outcome of classification.	Range improvement investment should not be made on lands that may be disposed of for agricultural purposes.
5. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.	Present information is insufficient to determine impacts of geothermal development on land treatment. Any mineral development at this time appears to be improbable.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION–ANALYSIS–DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)	Reasons (cont)
6. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.	Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 2 Step 3

INDIAN ALLOTMENT (0415)

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
RM 2.5 Establish an administrative stock driveway, not to exceed 1/2 mile in width from freeway overpass to Bliss Canal, open to trailing year-long.	This is the main route for sheep herds trailing from the Bruneau desert to the North Gooding and Macon Flat Allotments, and points north. Establishment of stock driveways will give better administrative control over trailing livestock and will reduce unauthorized trailing and abuse of the forage resource. This will result in a decrease of forage utilization in the allotment and improvement of range conditions.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would have no major economic impact on the allottee. Since the proposed route is currently being used as the main livestock trail through the area, no actual change in the current operation would occur, thus no impact would result.

The recommendation conflicts with watershed, W 1.2, which identifies the need to meet the physiological needs of herbaceous vegetation and increase ground cover in the area to be traversed by the proposed stock driveway. The heavy use of the driveway would not be consistent with the needs of the plants. Lands 3.1A, which proposes disposal of lands proposed for the stock driveway, could be in conflict with the recommendation because the establishment of the driveway would preclude agricultural entry. Watershed, W 1.3 conflicts with the stock driveway proposal because it identifies the need to retain at least 50 percent of the yearly production of herbaceous vegetation on the area. Heavy use by trailing livestock would not leave the desired amount of vegetation on the driveway.

The recommendation is supported by the following activity recommendation: Range management (0415) RM 1 & 2.2. Establishment of the driveway would be supported by other activity recommendations which deal with the need for proper vegetation management, because administration and management of trailing livestock would be facilitated, thus adverse impacts from trailing outside established routes would be lessened.

Multiple-Use Recommendations	Reasons
Accept recommendation as stated above.	Benefits to administrative management is considered to be more important than the damage

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name *(MFP)*
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 2 Step 3

Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)	Reasons (cont)
	caused to the vegetative resources as a result of the livestock trails.
Allow disposal of lands with Class I and II irrigation potential classification without reservation for the stock driveway. Reserve public access to remaining National Resource Lands to facilitate need for a stock driveway.	Access to National Resource Lands for trailing livestock can be provided by public access reservations as lands are disposed of.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

INDIAN ALLOTMENT

ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES CONSIDERED

1. Combine entire allotment with adjoining allotment.

2. Combine that portion of the allotment south of Clover Creek with the Clover Creek Allotment.

1 & 2. These alternatives were not selected because disruption of the allottees operation and increased livestock handling costs that would occur are considered to be as important as the administrative benefits that would be gained by this proposal.