

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

BH

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity
Watershed

Objective Number
W-2 (Water Quality-Streams,

No. 1)

Page 1 of 2

OBJECTIVE:

Gather water quality baseline data for measuring the effectiveness of Bureau management programs by the fall of 1978. Maintain these for a minimum of ten years (1988).

Rationale:

Data are not presently available. In order to make intelligent land management decisions we must obtain some basic information on water quality. Field observations indicate that over large areas the quality of surface waters is only fair to very poor. The primary cause appears to be excessive and ill-timed livestock grazing. Clean water flowing in lush streambeds has wide appeal among all types of people. There is much support for a quality environment in our basic and supplemental guidance documents.

Bureau Manual 1602.13A states, "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."

Bureau Manual 1602.33A states, in part, "Environmental characteristics of public land will become increasingly important. Public land-use decision-making will focus sharply on characteristics which promote public health and well-being, and prevent or counter environmental degradation...The need for attention to environmental factors, including sociological and psychological values, in addition to economic or resource management principles, will increasingly govern public land-use..."

Bureau Manual 1602.42C3a,b,c, state in part, "All land-use and resource management program decisions must be consistent with Federal or State air and water quality standards..."

"In all land-use and program decisions, the capacity of ecosystems to sustain themselves and the condition and requirements of all species within these ecosystems will be fully considered."

"In all land-use and program decisions, protection of natural and man-made elements in the environment which have aesthetic values of natural beauty...will be fully considered."

Bureau Manual 1603.12E1 states, The Watershed Program activity includes vegetative manipulation through mechanical, chemical, and biological methods, and water development and control structures. These are directed toward stabilization of soil resources, maintenance or restoration of soil productivity, protection and enhancement of water yield and quality, and reduction of flood and sediment damage, both on and offsite.

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Rationale (Continued):

Bureau Manual 1603.12E3b states that one long-term objective of the Water Resource Program Activity is to: "Restore, maintain, and improve surface and ground water quality and yield for both on-and off-site use."

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H.

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

WATER QUALITY - STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W - 2.1

Establish 16 water quality monitoring stations in the locations shown on the overlay.

The locations were selected to give the greatest amount of information with the least number of stations. Road access was an important consideration. Some walking may be necessary but it has been kept to a minimum.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation. See Rationale above and the Rationale for Objective W-2 for available social, economic and institutional data and for Bureau Manual guidance. The recommendation is complementary to Recommendation WL-13.2 (Fisheries) which calls for surveying fisheries potential, gathering water quality data, and inventorying other water related items.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Activity Recommendation W-2.1 was accepted in its entirety.

After analysis with other activity recommendations no conflicts are evident.

Decision

Reason

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

BH -(TH) 1/

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hills

Activity
Watershed

Objective Number
W-3 (Water Quality-Streams,

No. 2)

OBJECTIVE

Improve the quality of water in the main stream channels shown on Overlay No. 2 by 1985. Objective targets are compliance with Idaho State and Federal water quality standards. Quantification of a starting point for water quality is not possible because of scanty water quality baseline data (see also Objective W-2).

RATIONALE

See rationale for Objective W-2 and rationale for Recommendations under this objective (W-3).

1/ Only Recommendation W-3.1 applies to the Timmerman Hills Planning Unit.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T.H.

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Watershed
Overlay Reference
Step 1 NO. 2 Step 3

WATER QUALITY STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W-3.1

Complete a "site specific" inventory of potential dam sites, gabion sites, and detention structure sites on the main stream channels (and their primary and secondary tributaries) shown on the overlay by the end of the field season, 1978. 2/

There is no current inventory of feasible construction sites in the Shoshone District. Construction of water catchments has been on a piecemeal basis with the single objective (in nearly all cases) of providing additional livestock water. A carefully prepared inventory with photos would assist in making management decisions concerning the feasibility of construction projects in relation to land treatment jobs. Watershed construction jobs will always be considered a complement to vegetal manipulation and proper livestock management rather than a replacement for these needed practices.

2/ No overlay was prepared for the Timmerman Hills Planning Unit. Inventory the steep Timmerman and Picabo Hill drainageways.

Support needs: Assistance will be needed from the District Engineer and/or his staff in selecting feasible sites on the ground.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation. See Rationale above and the Rationale for Objective W-2 for the available social, economic, and institutional data and for Bureau Manual guidance.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Activity Recommendation W-3.1 was accepted in its entirety.

This inventory recommendation represents no conflict with any present or future activity program of the Bureau.

Decision

Reason

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity
Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 NO. 2 Step 3

WATER QUALITY - STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W-3.2

Improve water quality in the main stream channels shown on the overlay according to the following schedule:

While not quantifiable, there is a relationship between SSF and sediment load in drainages. Reduction of SSF should also bring about a reduction in turbidity that can increase water quality.

Change in SSF on surrounding uplands	Target Date	Designation on BH URA Step 4, Watershed, Overlay No. 5
10-20 + points	1985	Opportunity Area WQ-1
5-9 points	1985	Opportunity Area WQ-2

By implementing recommendations W-1.2, W-1.3, W-1.4, W-1.5 significant reductions in SSF can be accomplished by 1985.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation, rather it complements several. Recommendations W-1.2, W-1.3, W-1.4, W-1.5, R-3.2, WL 13.3, and those Range Management recommendations which relate to adjustments in stocking rate and implementation of grazing systems deal directly or indirectly with the problem of erosion and/or stream load of sediment. See Rationale above and the Rationale for Objective W-2.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Activity Recommendation W-3.2 was accepted in its entirety.

If erosion reduction can be accomplished on upper watersheds, improved water quality in main stream channels is expected to follow naturally.

Decision

Reason

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H.

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WATER QUALITY - STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W - 3.3

Improve water quality in the stream reaches designated on the overlay by selective channel fencing to exclude domestic livestock by 1980. Leave sufficient water gaps to meet the needs of grazing animals.

These stream bottoms have a history of very heavy livestock concentration which annually denudes most herbaceous riparian vegetation. The stream bottom is a separate and distinct ecosystem from the surrounding uplands. It is a fragile environment, easily disturbed. Excluding livestock from the stream bottom will decrease bacterial counts and bank sloughing. Increasing lush riparian vegetation will help to shade the water surface. A decrease in water temperature is expected to occur.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with the free movement of domestic livestock and with providing the maximum amount of forage, but is not in direct conflict with any specific Range Management recommendation. It is complementary to recommendations R-1.1 (Fishing Improvement) and WL-13.1 (excluding livestock along King Hill, Dry, and Clover Creeks). The needs of domestic stock have been considered in that water gaps are proposed. However, initial and maintenance costs will be high and certain stream reaches may be healed through implementation of a grazing management system. On these reaches the least cost alternative of implementing intensive livestock management should be explored. Other reaches are in such condition that total protection is -critical.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Activity Recommendation W-3.3 was accepted in its entirety for those stream reaches designated Channel Fencing on the overlay.

These stream reaches are considered critical for the recreation and wildlife activities.

Improve water quality, in the stream reaches designated Channel Fencing only after AMP Failure to Heal on the overlay, by selective channel fencing to exclude domestic livestock only after at least one cycle in a rest rotation-type grazing system. If healing is not apparent fence stock

These stream reaches are important, but less critical than those above.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 No. 2 Step 3

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Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)

away from the stream bottom. Leave sufficient water gaps to meet the needs of grazing animals.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

B.H. - T.H.

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Watershed
Objective Number	W-4 (Water Quality-Surface Waters Other than Streams)

Page 1 of 1

OBJECTIVE:

Improve the quality of water in Bureau water developments (except wells and pipelines), undeveloped springs and water seeps on National Resource Land by 1985. At present, this is a nonquantifiable objective.

RATIONALE:

Field observation indicates that areas around springs and seeps accessible to domestic livestock (especially cattle) are very often converted from a natural oasis supporting many forms of life to an ugly "mud wallow". The resultant decrease in water quality is apparent, even to the casual observer. In addition, livestock very often wade into developed waterholes and reservoirs creating a quagmire of mud and fecal material very inhospitable to many forms of life.

Bureau Basic and Supplemental guidance emphasizes the need for a quality environment.

Bureau Manual 1602.12 and 1603.21A states: "...The Bureau will protect the lands, resources, environment and public values therein from avoidable destruction, abuse and deterioration, and correct past abuses to the extent feasible."

Bureau Manual 1603, Appendix 1, Page 1, Program Outlook Guide, states in part, "An equally important BLM task is to provide a level of protection for basic resource values of all types... In many instances, this protection will require direct action to retard ongoing damage or prevent future damage from occurring, and cannot be accomplished as part of an ongoing use authorization..."

See also Bureau Manual 1602.42C3a,b,c and 1603.12E3b shown in rationale for Objective W-2.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

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E.H. & T.H. Name (MFP) Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hi
Activity Watershed
Overlay Reference Step 1 See foot ^{step 3} note reference 3/

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE WATERS
OTHER THAN STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W-4.1 (entire planning unit)

Complete an inventory of all existing Bureau water developments (except pipelines and wells), undeveloped springs, and water seeps on National Resource Land to determine the need for "site specific" water quality improvement measures by the end of the field season 1980.

The Bureau has an inventory of water developments; it is, however, noticeably lacking in water quality information. There is no inventory of undeveloped natural waters.

An inventory, with photos, emphasizing water quality, is important to decide which surface waters have highest priority for improvement measures and what practices are needed

3/ See the following overlays for locations of existing water developments and some undeveloped waters. See also base map for some other undeveloped waters.

BH URA Step 2 - Water Resources No. 2.
TH URA Step 2 - Water Resources No. 1.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation. See Rationale above and the Rationale for Objective W-4 for the available social, economic, and institutional data, and for Bureau Manual guidance.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Activity recommendation W-4.1 was accepted in its entirety.

This inventory recommendation represents no conflict with any present or future activity program of the Bureau.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1973)

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 See Step 3

footnote Reference 4/

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE WATERS
OTHER THAN STREAMS

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

W-4.2 (entire planning unit)

Implement water quality improvement measures on those surface waters requiring corrective work by 1985. Continue maintenance on a regular basis from then on.

The water quality inventory recommended (W-4.1) will identify corrective work required to restore surface waters to an acceptable level. Some corrective actions are:

4/ See footnote under Recommendation W-4.1.

1. Fence the areas with fences strong enough to handle the greatest expected problem, e.g., railroad tie posts with 6" rails in areas frequented by bulls.
2. Pipe water away from the water source to troughs below or to a reservoir below.
3. Plant adapted species in and around areas denuded by overgrazing, e.g., establish willows, quaking aspen, etc., in what is now a pure stand of Kentucky bluegrass.

Support needs: Job feasibility determination will need to be made on a case-by-case basis the year prior to inclusion in the AWP by the District Engineer and/or his staff.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Improving water quality will affect some present uses, e.g., free movement of livestock, but the effects are considered worth the trade-offs and dollar cost. The recommendation is consistent with the intent of Recommendation WL-6.3 (excluding livestock from spring and wet meadow areas which are important summer habitat for sage grouse). Any corrective improvement work should be done in such a way that it harmonizes with the landscape and does not represent a visual intrusion (Recommendation R-4.3).

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
 RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T.H.	
Name (MFP)	
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil	
Activity	
Watershed	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1 See	Step 3
Footnote Reference 4/	

Multiple-Use Recommendation

W-4.2 (entire planning unit)
 Implement water quality improvement measures on those surface waters requiring corrective work by 1985. Construct any improvements in such a way that they harmonize with, rather than detract from, the natural occurrence of aquatic life and the surrounding drier vegetation. Continue maintenance on a regular basis indefinitely.

Support needs: The same support needs apply to the modified recommendation as applied to the original recommendation.

Reasons

Recommendation W-4.2 was modified to reflect visual resource needs. Surface waters in a semi-desert area support many life forms (plant & animal). These life forms should predominate, not the man-made improvements.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.