

MINERALS ACTIVITY SUMMARY

BENNETT HILLS-TIMMERMAN HILLS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

Retain leasable mineral rights and approve all oil and gas lease applications on National Resource Land. Approve geothermal leases unless some overriding resource value(s) would be destroyed.

Retain locatable minerals in public ownership and cooperate with mining claimants.

Maintain presently designated material sources, allow free use permits subject to the recommendations of the district Surface Protection Team, conduct an inventory of saleable minerals, and establish community pits to meet local demand for saleable materials.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmer	Hi
Activity	Minerals	
Objective Number	M-1	

OBJECTIVE

Insure the availability of Federal leasable minerals for future lease and/or development.

RATIONALE

Although potential for oil and gas or geothermal development is not considered to be very great within the Planning Area, there is a large area currently under oil and gas lease, and two smaller areas which are under consideration for geothermal lease. Policy guidance in BLM Manuals 1602 and 1603, coupled with the national "energy crisis", directs that any potential sources of energy should be available for use.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
 RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil
Activity	Minerals
Overlay Reference	Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

NRL Leasable Minerals

Recommendation

Rationale

M-1.1 Retain leasable mineral rights and avoid withdrawal from mineral leasing laws, on all NRL and the private land outlined in dark green on Overlay No. 1. Also, retain oil and gas rights, and avoid withdrawal, on the private lands outlined in purple.

The location or extent of potential leasable mineral values is presently unknown; therefore, all lands having leasable mineral rights should remain available for exploration and possible development.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

Maintaining the availability of leasable minerals will simply preserve BLM's option to allow leasing and/or development when or if an interest is expressed. There would be no commitment to allow leasing or development if substantial conflicts with other resources or uses were identified.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Accept the activity recommendation as stated above.

No conflicts with other activities or values have been identified.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 Multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Bennett Hills-Timms	H:
Activity	Minerals
Overlay Reference	None
Step 1	Entire
Step 3	

R.A.

Leasable Minerals

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
M-1.2 Approve all applications for leasing oil and gas or geothermal resources; minimize lease restrictions.	By leasing the lands the BLM can encourage the discovery and development of any valuable resources which might be present, thereby benefitting the economy and promoting orderly development of the energy resources.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

Leasing oil and gas resources normally results in relatively limited impacts upon other resources, even if an economic oil field is discovered. Geothermal leasing, on the other hand, could result in substantial construction, noise, and environmental hazards if an economic geothermal source were found. Stipulations would be needed on all leases, with their related restrictions being dependent upon the need to protect other resources.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Continue to allow oil and gas leases on NRL, providing for protection of the environment through adequate lease stipulations. Lease oil and gas rights on private land only after contacting the private landowner

Leasing of minerals has potential for conflicting with almost all other resource activities. However, leasing of Federal minerals is an important part of the national energy program, and therefore, should not be eliminated. In small areas overriding resource

and determining that his interest can be protected. Approve geothermal lease applications unless it is found that some overriding resource value(s) would be destroyed. Examples of areas which may be considered for either exclusion from geothermal leasing or included in leases but subject

values might preclude leasing or at least surface disturbance. Otherwise lease stipulations can be used to adequately mitigate adverse impacts. As explained in W.O. Instruction Memo 75-156, the BLM is accepting certain responsibilities for protecting private landowners when leasing "solid leasable minerals".

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Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Minerals
Overlay Reference	Step 1 Entire Step 3

R.A.

Leasable Minerals

Multiple-Use Recommendation

shown on MFP Step I Recreation Overlay, and areas adjacent to Morman Reservoir, Magic Reservoir, and Silver Creek. Leasing of geothermal resources on private land should be done only after consulting with the private landowner. All leasing should be subject to stipulations which would provide for as much protection of the environment and other resources as possible without making development of the geothermal resources completely unfeasible.

Reasons

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hi
Activity	Minerals
Objective Number	M-2

OBJECTIVE

Insure that areas which have potential for production of gold and/or diatomaceous earth remain open to exploration and available for mineral development, while minimizing potential for damage to the environment.

RATIONALS

These are the only locatable minerals known to have even minor potential within the Planning Area. The PAA indicates some interest in mining, especially for the diatomaceous earth. The policy guidance in BLM Manuals 1602 and 1603 provides for aiding and encouraging mineral development, but also for minimizing damage to the environment and other resources.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

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

Locatable Minerals

Recommendation

M-2.1 Retain the areas outlined in red in public ownership and avoid withdrawal from mineral location.

Rationale

Although the potential for mineral development in the identified areas may be somewhat remote, the potential values should remain available for further exploration.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Judging from the limited evidence of valuable locatable minerals existing in this Planning Area, mineral location is not expected to substantially interfere with other resource activities. As new areas are identified as having some potential for locatable minerals, conflicts could arise with other activities.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the activity recommendation, considering the additions of new areas if other potential for locatable minerals is identified.

Reasons

No conflicts with other resources or values have been identified.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timm
Activity	Minerals
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Entire
Step 3	

P.A.

Locatable Minerals

Recommendation

Rationale

M-2.2 Cooperate with mining claimants in establishing access to claims and suggesting means for minimizing adverse impacts.

Under the provisions of the 1872 Mining Laws, unless public lands are withdrawn they are subject to exploration and mineral development. By working with mining claimants, usually any major environmental impacts can be avoided.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Construction of mining roads under existing law could conflict with several resource activities. By seeking a cooperative relationship with the miners, hopefully any damage to the environment or other resources would be minimized.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Accept the activity recommendation as stated above

In absence of discretionary authority regarding mining roads, this recommendation will minimize conflicts with other values.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Minerals
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Entire Step 3
P.A.	

Locatable Minerals

Recommendation

M-2.3 Further identify and evaluate deposits of valuable minerals in the Planning Area.

Rationale

No intensive inventory for minerals has been completed for the Planning Area. Such an inventory would facilitate more specific planning in the future.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This type of inventory would benefit the minerals activity by improving the existing information. Also, it would provide for alerting other activities of potential conflicts.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the activity recommendation as stated above

Reasons

No conflicts with other resources or values have been identified.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmer	Hi
Activity	Minerals	
Objective Number	M-3	

OBJECTIVE

To the extent possible, provide rock, sand, gravel, and borrow material to meet the needs of the Idaho Division of Highways, local highway districts, and general public through the establishment and/or maintenance of free use areas and community pits.

RATIONALE

The PAA indicates that the future demand for saleable minerals will not exceed present use. The URA indicates opportunities for maintaining and developing sources for saleable minerals on National Resource Lands. BLM policy guidance provides for making saleable minerals available for use as needed to meet market demand.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

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

Material Sources

Recommendations

M-3.1 Maintain presently designated material sources until their material is exhausted. These areas are shaded brown on the overlay.

Rationale

A continuing need for mineral material is anticipated. By fully utilizing areas where excavation has already occurred, new surface disturbance will be minimized and more efficient use of the total mineral resources will be possible.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Continuing use of the presently designated sources will generally not create as great a conflict with other resource activities as initiating use of areas that have been previously undisturbed. If some of the sources are exhausted or have no future potential for use, they should be closed.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the activity recommendation as stated above, also providing for inventory of the existing sites and revocation of the ones that are no longer needed.

Reasons

No conflicts with other resources or values have been identified. Revocation of authorizations on unneeded sites will help clear the records.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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 RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Bennett Hills-Timm	L H
Activity	
Minerals	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1 No. 1	Step 3

Saleable Minerals

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
<p>M-3.2 Retain the areas shaded apple green in public ownership and make any use-able saleable material available as demand develops.</p>	<p>These areas contain sand, gravel, or lava rock, as identified in the URA. Although other sources undoubtedly also exist, the availability of at least these known areas should be maintained.</p>

Multiple-Use Analysis

The only definite potential conflict identified would be in the Black Buttes area near the Shoshone Ice Caves. Making all the lava rock available for use would conflict with Recreation recommendation R-12.1. By eliminating the identified on the overlay for R-12.1 from sale of lava rock the conflict would be resolved, and a large area would still remain as a source of saleable lava rock. Other identified areas could conflict with other resources, but such conflicts would be considered by the Surface Protection Team at the time the sources were designated for use.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

<p>Same as above, except eliminate that portion which conflicts with recommendation R-12.1. Provide for surface protection when or if the sites are designated.</p>	<p>No unresolved conflicts remain, and an adequate area will still be available as a source of lava rock for mineral purposes.</p>
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Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity
Minerals

Overlay Reference None

Step 1 Entire Step 3

P.A.

Free Use PermitsRecommendation

M-3.3 Approve free-use permit applications for construction or maintenance material.

Rationale

The State Division of Highways and the local highway districts are dependent upon National Resource Lands for a free supply of fill and other mineral material. Continuing to approve such use is beneficial to the general public by reducing road costs, and stimulating economic activity.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The location of the areas which might be applied for is presently unknown. Depending upon the location and other factors, free use permits could conflict with any or all of the other resource activities. Potential conflicts would be considered and mitigating measures would be selected by the district Surface Protection Team prior to the sites being designated for free use permit areas. If high value resources would be destroyed, an alternate site might have to be found.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Allow free use permits, subject to recommendations of the district Surface Protection Team.

Reasons

Modified to provide for consideration of other resources and values.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timme
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Community PitsRecommendation

M-3.4 Conduct an inventory of rock, sand, gravel, and/or fill material within the Planning Area and establish community pits to meet the demand for these materials.

Rationale

An inventory is needed to better define what is available and where it is located. Establishing community pits would avoid delays in serving the public and would save time and work for the BLM in responding to public needs for mineral material.

Multiple-Use Analysis

An inventory of potential sources of saleable minerals would benefit the minerals activity directly. Other activities would be indirectly benefitted by more sources being identified because alternative sites to unacceptable locations could probably then be found. Setting up community pits would benefit the public by making material more readily available, would increase BLM's efficiency in handling applications for mineral material, and would greatly reduce random material sales which tend to interfere with other resource activities and open up new areas unnecessarily.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Same as above, with establishment of community pits subject to approval of the district Surface Protection Team.

Reasons

No present conflicts have been identified but the precise location of community pits would probably be of concern to all resource activities.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.