

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

PICABO CATTLE ALLOTMENT (0601)

RECOMMENDATION

RM - 1, 2.1 .

Revise the present AMP and change the present grazing system to at least the following minimum design.

Treatment	4/16	4/30	6/30	7/25	9/30
A	///				///
B	REST				
C	///				
D		///			

RATIONALE

The tentative evaluation of the present Picabo AMP (see Timmerman Hills URA, Range Management Step 3, p 8-12) reveals that the present grazing system design has little or no chance of improving range conditions and increase present estimated carrying capacity by 600 AUMs within 12 years after implementation. (See also T.H., URA, RM, Step 4 p 6-9).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

Analysis of the other resource activities Step 1 Recommendations reveals an adamant attitude that intensive livestock management is needed on this allotment. The following recommendations lend support to this recommendation for a minimum grazing system design: WL 5.1, WL 6.1, WL 6.4, WL 8.2, WL 8.3, WL 12.1, R. 2.1, R 3.2, W 1.2, & W 1.3. These recommendations relate the following constrains on the development of the grazing system and establish guidelines for allowable livestock grazing within that system.

1. Implement a grazing system that will assure that no more than 1/3 of the critical deer winter range is grazed in the fall (after August 15).

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Analysis (continued)

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2. Defer livestock grazing on critical deer winter range until after May.
3. Insure that no more than 60 percent of the herbaceous vegetation is utilized by livestock in any pasture and implement a grazing system to establish and maintain a diverse vegetation composition of 20 - 25 percent forbs, 50 - 60 percent grasses, and 15 - 20 percent shrubs.
4. Establish livestock grazing systems that will enhance the reproduction and forage availability of forbs.
5. Meet the physiological needs of herbaceous vegetation so that it will prosper and increase to the greatest ground cover the soils are capable of supporting.

While these recommendations do effect the design of the grazing system and location of improvements they can be worked with this recommendation for a revised grazing system.

The Wildlife recommendation to defer grazing on critical deer winter range until after May 1 could cause some problems with the livestock operators as they now turn out on some of this area April 16.

There are three other recommendations in the Range Management, Picabo Allotment, RM 1, 2.2, R 2.3, & RM 1, 2.4 that will effect the final selection of the grazing system and the livestock operators. They are to establish stocking rates for both National Resource Lands and other lands within the allotment, and to combine this allotment with the Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment. See the Multiple-Use Analysis for these recommendations for the additional overview of the

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed situation.

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Multiple-Use Recommendation

Revise the present grazing system to at least the minimum standards depicted in the above recommendation and allow for inclusion of items 1 through 5 in the Multiple-Use Analysis in the grazing system design and application.

Reasons

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Deer winter range, critical deer winter range, sage grouse strutting grounds, sage grouse wintering area, and antelope summer range fall within this allotment. It is necessary that intensive livestock management be implemented to preserve and improve these values and to improve range and watershed conditions.

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 1, 2.2

Establish stocking rates on National Resource Lands within this allotment in accordance with the carrying capacity information as interpolated from the soils and vegetation data to be gathered during the summer of 1976 and succeeding years.

RATIONALE

The present carrying capacity of this allotment has been estimated to be 13 Ac/AUM under present conditions (see T.H. URA, RM Step 4, p 2) while the active qualifications obligate the National Resource Lands at 7.6 Ac/AUM. "The initial stocking rates are of the most importance and must not exceed existing livestock grazing capacity of the allotment". (W.O. Inst. Memo 75-407). In order to improve range conditions and to finally increase available AUMs this action may be necessary.

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MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation is supported by recommendations made in the Watershed, Recreation and Wildlife Activities. If the above estimated carrying capacities for this allotment are near correct, then there would be a high economic impact on the users through a reduction in active AUMs if this recommendation is implemented.

See also the analysis for Recommendation, Picabo Cattle Allotment, RM 1, 2.4 for possible alternative to a reduction in active privileges.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

This recommendation should be accepted to determine proper carrying capacity for this allotment.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RECOMMENDATION

RM - 2.3

Obtain information on present carrying capacity on all State and private lands offered for exchange of use.

RATIONALE

"Stocking rates for exchange of use agreements and percent use authorizations must be based on forage inventories. Exchange of use agreements that would work to the detriment of the District program should be rejected" (W.O. Inst. Memo 74-397). Some of the private lands in recent years have been plowed and seeded thus changing the carrying capacity. The range survey for this unit has been lost and there is no record for this allotment. The State Dept. of Public Lands has recently re-surveyed most of their land and the BLM may recognize the State's new carrying capacity on State lands offered for exchange of use. The present carrying capacity for all lands offered is at 6.9 Ac/AUM. These private lands are not thought to be in that good of shape.

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MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

The carrying capacity data on these State and private lands needs to be updated so that the exchange-of-use licenses can be based on current information. There is no conflict with other resources on obtaining this data. If the carrying capacity of these lands in AUMs are adjusted downward, it would have an economic impact on the people controlling these lands. They would have to accept the new carrying capacities or fence these lands out of the allotment.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the recommendations as stated above and adjust the exchange-of-use licenses accordingly.

Reasons

If the offered lands are overstocked it puts additional grazing pressure on NRLs.

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 1, 2.4

Combine this allotment with the Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment and develop two four-pasture grazing systems incorporating the principles of rest-rotation grazing to improve range conditions and increase forage production. (See also Timmerman Hills Allotment Recommendations).

RATIONALE

It is estimated that if the two allotments were combined that there would be reduced negative and economic impact on the Picabo Hills Allotment licensees. Possibly no reduction in spring grazing would be necessary in the implementation of the grazing system. (See also T.H., URA-RM Step 4, p 8). There would be an economic advantage to both the Government and the licensees in total if the allotments were combined.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation does not by itself conflict with the other activities recommendations.

Combining these allotments would create some hardships on the users in that they would be running their livestock in areas different from that which they have been using for the past several years. Also, before allowing any cattle in the

Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment, fences and additional waters would have to be built

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple Use Recommendation

Accept the above recommendation if the proposed benefits can be realized in the development of the AMP for the combined area.

Reasons

Because of several factors, such as land patterns in Picabo Allotment, improvements needed to accomodate cattle in the Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment, and possible user disagreement to the proposal, a firm or final decision to combine these allotments should not be made at this date.

Alternative

Do not combine the two allotments.  
Keep them separate and develop individual AMPs for each allotment.

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 2.5

Develop dependable water as indicated in the AMP to provide for proper utilization and distribution of livestock.

RATIONALE

Additional water needs to be developed with the implementation of an intensive grazing system. Plans for these additional waters will be developed with the revision of the AMP and as needed for the implementation and operation of the grazing system. Any future water developments should be for season long use to facilitate livestock manipulation within the proposed grazing systems for the duration of the grazing season.

MULTIPLE USE ANALYSIS

The recommendation conflicts with WL 6.2 which recommends to exclude livestock from spring and wet-meadow areas. This conflict should be mitigated by fencing out identified spring areas on a project by project basis after developing the water and piping it to a trough for livestock use. The wet-meadows should be identified as to the specific site needs after intensive livestock management has been implemented to see if this need can be satisfied through the manipulation of livestock within the grazing system.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

T.H.

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PICABO CATTLE ALLOTMENT 0601 (continued)

Multiple Use Analysis (continued)

The development of dependable water supports the recommendation to implement an intensive grazing system on this allotment and benefits would accrue to both livestock and wildlife.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Develop dependable water as indicated in the AMP and correlate the project design to mitigate as much as possible with wildlife needs.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.6

Treat 12,000 acres of brush to release the forage species. This could be accomplished with a combination of spraying, chaining, or burning.

This treatment is needed to improve the quality and quantity of forage for the present active qualifications and present grazing season. This treatment will produce an additional 410 AUMs of forage over the estimated present carrying capacity, which combined with management will produce an additional 1,010 AUMs. The 410 AUMs would be realized in 4 to 6 years after treatment. (See also Timmerman Hills URA, RM Step 4, p 2).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation for 12,000 acres is reduced and the remaining areas are supported and/or constrained by other accepted resource activity recommendations to point that total acres of brush control are unknown at this time. See the Range Management Step II Overlay for location of and type of constraints on brush control projects within this allotment. See also the General and Specific Guidelines for Brush Control that are contained in Appendix II of this section. Brush control projects should not be initiated until after implementation of the

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Multiple-Use Recommendation

Selectively control sagebrush to increase livestock forage, improve watershed conditions, and improve species composition for sage grouse brood rearing within the accepted guidelines (RM Appendix II) for sagebrush control.

Reasons

The Wildlife, Watershed, and Range Management programs can be enhanced by doing selective sagebrush control projects.

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 2.7

Construct new fences and relocate or use existing fences to allow for implementation of proposed grazing system.

RATIONALE

The Picabo Cattle Allotment has several interior fences that were located to implement the present grazing system. These fences should be used where possible in the development of a better grazing system. No additional fences are shown at this time on the Range Management MFP Step I Overlay because location has not been determined.

MULTIPLE USE ANALYSIS

All fences proposed and existing have conflicts with some of the recreation (R 8.3) and wildlife (WL 5.3) activity recommendations, but are also recognized as a necessary evil to accomplish livestock manipulation to implement intensive livestock management which will help to accomplish many of the range management, watershed, wildlife, and recreation activity recommendations.

All new fences should be constructed to specifications presented in the 1737 Fencing Manual. The fences should be located so as to blend in with the natural environment as much as possible. Gates and/or cattleguards should be located on roads and trails and/or at least every mile in gentle terrain and at least every

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one-half mile in rough terrain to accomodate the public use of the National Resource Lands.

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Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Construct new fences and relocate or use existing fences to allow for implementation of the proposed grazing system. Specifications for fence construction will be in accordance with the above analysis.

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 2.8

By land exchange, acquire all State land within the allotment, also by exchange acquire some of the private lands owned or controlled by C. W. Gardner & Sons.

RATIONALE

The acquisition of State lands would facilitate management. Management of the National Resource Lands would be complicated if the State sections were to go into private ownership. The private lands referred to are owned or controlled by one individual. An exchange of lands within the allotment and/or other National Resource Lands to better block up both private lands and National Resource Lands would facilitate management of these lands. The implementation of grazing systems and administration of these lands would be enhanced.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Acquiring the State lands and private lands in this allotment by land exchange would block up the National Resource Lands and eliminate conflicts with proposed projects in the area such as brush control, fences, water developments, roads, trails, etc.

This recommendation is supported by Wildlife, which states: "Initiate a land exchange program to gain ownership of the private land identified or critical deer winter range on the Picabo Hills."

There is the problem of identifying National Resource Lands that would meet both the State's and the Bureau's requirements to consummate such an exchange program.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Consider these lands for acquisition in any future land consolidation program entered into between the State of Idaho, private landowners, and the Bureau.

Reason

It is not known at this time if or when the State Dept. of Public Lands and the Bureau would try to work together on this type of land consolidation program. Because of this unknown, the recommendation was moderated. Private landowners may or maynot be interested in such a program.

Acquisition of these lands would enhance the public values for the deer winter range and any other activity which would conflict with private lands.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)