

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

BLACK CANYON ALLOTMENT (0418)

RECOMMENDATION

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.

RATIONALE

The URA indicates that adequate forage may not be 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 goal is 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, 5.1, 8.2, 8.3, 12.1, 13.3; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1, 3.2; range management, RM 1. & 2.2 (0416).

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the recommendations as stated above.

Reasons

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RM 1. & 2.2

Continue existing AMP and grazing system, except as follows:

1. Adjust the grazing use so that no more than 50 percent of the Class I active demand is utilized during the critical spring growing season.

Support Needs:

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

Exchange isolated private lands to block up National Resource Lands and facilitate access.

RATIONALE

The present grazing system is designed to provide for the physiological requirements of the native key forage species. Approximately 1630 additional AUMs can be produced annually within a 15- 20 year period with proper management.

Presently most of the Class I demand is used during the critical spring growing season which overloads the forage producing capacity of the vegetation during that time. Adjusting some spring use to fall use will increase the opportunity for seed crop requirements.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation, by adjusting the present spring use from about 70 percent of the current active Class I demand to no more than 50 percent would result in an adverse economic impact to the livestock operators dependent upon the allotment by reducing their livestock numbers and/or reduction in season of use during the critical spring growing season. The initial impact of the recommendation would be mitigated over the long-term by improved range condition resulting in increased sustained forage production for the entire allotment.

Wildlife, WL 1.1, 3.1, 8.2, 12.1; and watershed, W 1.3 identifies the need to retain between 40- 50 percent of the herbaceous vegetation produced each year on each pasture and/or allotment. This conflicts with the existing grazing system because utilization on some pastures would likely exceed 60 percent.

Wildlife, WL 6.2, 9.1, and 13.1, and watershed, W 3.3 identify the need to exclude livestock grazing from wet meadows, springs, canals, and streambanks. This would reduce the availability of high quality forage and restrict access to water for livestock.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Analysis (cont)

Recreation, R 5.1 proposes to close a substantial area known as the "City of Rocks" to livestock grazing which would alter the existing grazing system. Lands, L 3.1A recommends disposal of Class I and II irrigable lands in the allotment if they meet appropriate classification criteria for agricultural use. Such action, along with minerals, M 1.2, proposal to lease potential geothermal resources within the allotment, should it prove to be an economic feasibility, would result in loss of large acreages of important livestock forage and seriously disrupt the existing grazing system.

These recommendations conflict to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 1.4, 2.1, 2.4, 8.1; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1, 6.1, and 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 5.1, 6.3, 8.3, 9.2, 12.2, 13.3; watershed, W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 13.1.

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.

It is not anticipated that this restriction will seriously impact grazing since livestock gains normally begin to decline after 60 percent 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

Livestock congregating on spring source areas denude vegetation essential to sage grouse broods and other wildlife species.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed enclosure.

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Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)

Reasons (cont)

Wet Meadows: After revision of the 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 live-stock grazing. *This recommendation also applies to selected stream channels - see in 3.3 and watershed Step I boundary II. and RISEY Units.*

It is anticipated that damage caused by livestock grazing will be mitigated by implementation of a proper grazing system.

Streams & canals: Fence streams ~~and canals~~ where major critical waterfowl nesting areas and fisheries potentials are identified. *Excessing 15 streams to provide streambank protection.* Provide water gaps no farther than 1/2 mile apart, when feasible. *(See 561P Inventory)*

Grazing livestock utilize and destroy riparian vegetation needed for waterfowl nesting and fisheries habitat. *Excessing and on stream banks due to riparian vegetation necessary to improve or maintain water quality.*

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.

5. Leave City of Rocks open to grazing unless or until grazing proves to be a significant conflict with recreational use. Exclude livestock if conflict evolves.

Modified R 5.1 to allow grazing until conflicts surface. No conflict presently evident.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RATIONALE

RM 1. & 2.3

Remove competing brush species on approximately 3700 acres and remove brush and seed approximately 3000 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 900 additional AUMs will be produced annually from treatment.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation would result in an increase in forage production. The increase would partially offset expected reductions in allowable grazing use for the allotment from adjustment of stocking rates to carrying capacity, as recommended in RM 2.1. Positive economic impacts would result from the recommendation. Where wildlife value are involved, the Idaho Fish & Game Dept. will be consulted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between that agency and the BLM.

This recommendation is in conflict with recreation, R 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 14.6, 14.12, 14.15; and minerals, M 1.2, which would restrict or constrain layout and method of land treatments as recommended. The recreation recommendations deal primarily with visual impact land treatment and the effect the recommended treatments would have on archaeological sites. The minerals proposal deals with restriction on land treatments which would occur should development of geothermal resources occur.

Lands, L 3.1A would also prohibit any land treatment because it proposes disposal of all irrigable lands that meet the classification criteria; subsequently reducing potential livestock forage.

The recommendation conflicts with wildlife, WL 7.1, which would exclude any land treatment on sage grouse strutting grounds and wintering areas, resulting in losses of potential forage increases for livestock.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 2.8, 5.2, 9.2, and recreation, R 1.1 and 2.1. These conflicts will be addressed prior to implementation of land treatments in the allotment to insure all resource values involved are adequately considered.

Supporting activity recommendations include the following: wildlife, WL 1.2, 1.3, 3.2 6.1, 12.2, 13.3; watershed, W 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 5.2; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Accept and modify the recommendation to subject brush removal and seeding proposals to the following constraints before projects are started.

1. Implement ~~a sound and acceptable~~ <sup>The proposed</sup> grazing system.
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).
3. Allow coordinated land treatment on sage grouse winter range and strutting grounds. (See Appendix I, MFP Step II.)
4. Propose no land treatments on lands that have Class I and II irrigation potential pending outcome of classification.
5. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.

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.

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.

The need to produce livestock forage to minimize the economic impact of the anticipated reduction in stocking rate (RM 2.1 (0415)) 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.

Range improvement investment should not be made on lands that may be disposed of for agricultural purposes.

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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Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)

6. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.

Reasons (cont)

Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 2.4

Establish administrative stock trails not to exceed 1/4 mile in width as follows:

1. From Bray Lake due east through Sections 30, 29, 28, and 27, T. 4 S., R. 14 E. to Black Canyon Creek in the North Gooding Allotment. 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.

2. From Crist Cabin to Rock Spring on Black Canyon Creek. Open to trailing from 5/15 to 12/31.

This trail is used under the same circumstances as 1. above. Trail should be closed 1/1 to 5/15 because of late forage growing conditions in higher ranges in the North Gooding Allotment.

3. From Bowman Flat to North Gooding Allotment. Open to trailing 5/15 to 12/31.

This trail is used by Jones & Sandy sheep operation and the crossing is made about six times during the spring. The trail should be closed 1/1 to 5/15 because of the late spring growing condition in these higher ranges. Establishment of a stock driveway 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

This recommendation could have an adverse economic impact on the allottees to the extent that a reduction in allowable use would have to be implemented to adjust for forage taken out by the livestock driveway routes. Possibly, the adjustment would be mitigated by the increase in available forage, resulting from elimination of indiscriminate trailing outside the established driveway.

The recommendation does not conflict to a major degree with any other resource activity recommendations.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 1.1, 3.1, 5.1, 9.1, 12.1, 13.1; watershed, W 1.2, 1.3,

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Multiple-Use Analysis (cont)

1.5, 3.3, 5.2; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 5.1; minerals, M 1.2. These conflicts will be addressed at the time the stock driveway is established to ensure all resource values are given adequate consideration.

The recommendation is supported by range management, RM 1. & 1.2 (0418), and all other activity recommendations which propose improved vegetation management. The recommendation would facilitate vegetation management by reducing impacts from improper trail use outside the designated route.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reason

Accept recommendations as stated above.

Same as Rationale above.

BLACK CANYON ALLOTMENT

Alternatives Considered

Combining with adjoining allotments

Faulkner's trail to Camas Prairie  
via Mormon Reservoir.