

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

HASH SPRINGS ALLOTMENT (0420)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RATIONALE

RM 1. & 2.1

Implement an AMP with a rest-rotation grazing system that will provide for plant vigor, seed production, seed tump, and seedling establishment of native key forage species. (See Step 4 URA 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 live-stock 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 70 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 results in deteriorated range conditions if not properly utilized.

Support needs: Improve existing access and construct additional access to improve use supervision and livestock movement due to dense sagebrush.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would result in an increase in livestock forage production thereby creating a potential positive economic impact on the allottee's livestock operation. Implementing the recommended grazing system would require more livestock handling, and, therefore, increased operational costs. However, the added cost would be offset by benefits from increased forage production. The operator would not have the flexibility under the proposed grazing system that he enjoys presently, i.e., the livestock would not be permitted to graze over the entire allotment at one time.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Multiple-Use Analysis (cont)

Wildlife, WL 1.1, 3.1, 12.1, and watershed, W 1.3 identify the need to retain 40- 50 percent of the herbaceous vegetation. This conflicts with the recommendation because utilization in the heavy use pastures of the grazing system would likely be greater than 60 percent. Wildlife, WL 6.2, 9.1, 12.1, identify the need to exclude live-stock grazing on wet meadows, springs, and streams. This would reduce availability of high quality forage and restrict access to water, which would contribute to the livestock distribution problems. Minerals, M 1.2 proposes leasing, with minimal restrictions, the geothermal resource. This could restrict livestock grazing because development would prohibit use of up to 1/3 of the land surface under lease.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 1.4, 8.1; and recreation, R 1.1, 2.1. These 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: WL 3.2, 6.3, 9.2, 12.2; W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; R 1.1, 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. 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, and streams, ~~and canals~~ from intensive livestock use which normally occurs as follows:

Springs: Coordinate protection with Livestock congregating on spring source areas wildlife needs. Where significant denude vegetation essential to sage grouse wildlife values are identified, fence broods and other wildlife species. spring source area to exclude live-stock and make water available to livestock outside the exclosure.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)

Reasons (cont)

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Wet Meadows: After implementation 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 livestock grazing.

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

Streams: Fence streams where major critical waterfowl nesting areas are identified. Provide water gaps no farther than 1/2 mile apart.

Grazing livestock utilize and destroy riparian vegetation needed for waterfowl nesting habitat

3. 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 recommendation as stated above. Acquire easement on private lands.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1. & 2.2

Remove competing brush species on approximately 2200 acres of National Resource Land to release and establish desirable perennial forage species.

This treatment, combined with management, is needed to meet the objectives within a reasonable timeframe of 10- 15 years. Approximately 120 additional AUMs will be produced annually from the treatment.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation could have a positive economic impact on the allottee's livestock operation because the land treatments proposed would produce a significant amount of additional livestock forage which could be licensed to the allottee.

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

The recommendation conflicts with wildlife, WL 7.1, which would exclude land treatment within two miles of sage grouse strutting grounds. If the treatments, as recommended, were not allowed a loss of potential livestock forage production would occur.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 9.2; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1. These conflicts should be addressed at the time the AMP is developed to insure all resource values are given proper consideration. The recommendation is supported by the following activity recommendations: wildlife, WL 1.2, 6.1, 12.2; watershed, W 1.4, 5.2; recreation, R 1.1, 2.1.

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 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.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Recommendations (cont)

Reasons (cont)

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2. Implement land treatment proposals only where minimal impacts occur to other resources or which actually benefit other resource. All other resources should receive the overriding consideration. Coordinate land treatments with criteria in Appendix I (MFP Step II.)

3. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.

4. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.

Disruption of livestock use can be minimized by planning treatments within grazing pastures and in accord with the grazing sequence.

This is BLM policy.

Modified to give overriding consideration to other resources. URA estimates indicate adequate forage is presently being produced in the allotment to provide for the Class I demand.

Present information is insufficient to determine impacts of geothermal development on land treatments. Any mineral development at this time appears to be improbable.

Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RM 2.3  
Determine carrying capacity for National Resource Lands and private and state lands offered for exchange of use license and adjust stocking rates accordingly.

RATIONALE

Information is needed to substantiate URA estimates on established baseline data. 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 and vegetative data to be gathered during the summer of 1976 and succeeding years.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would probably have a positive impact on the livestock operator. The URA indicates additional livestock forage may be available providing existing distribution problems are resolved. If the forage production is determined to be greater than the current licensed use, and a subsequent permanent increase is allowed, a substantial economic gain could be realized by the allottee. The increase in licensed use on National Resource Lands might not be significant if the carrying capacity of state and private lands is lower (as anticipated in the URA) than the stocking rate allowed under the exchange of use license.

The recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation provided the method used to determine the carrying capacity adequately considers the needs of other resources.

The recommendation is not supported by any other resource activity recommendations. However, the documentation of grazing capacity would be desirable for baseline information.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept recommendation as stated above.

HASH SPRINGS ALLOTMENT

Alternative Considered

Allotment combination