

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          |

TIKURA CATTLE ALLOTMENT 0602

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.1

Revise the present AMP and change the grazing systems to the following formula.

| Treatment | 5/1       | 6/20      | 7/25 | 9/30      |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|
| A         | / / / / / |           |      |           |
| B         |           |           |      | / / / / / |
| C         | R E S T   |           |      |           |
| D         |           | / / / / / |      |           |

The tentative evaluation of the present Tikura AMP (see T.H. URA, Step 3, p 13-16) reveals that the present grazing system design has little or no chance of improving range conditions. The proposed grazing system should improve present range conditions and increase present estimated carrying capacity by 119 AUMs within 10 years after implementation. (See also T.H. URA, RM, Step 4, p 10-12).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

The following recommendations made in the Wildlife, Recreation and Watershed activities lend support to the revision of the AMP to a more intensive grazing system: WL 5.1, WL 6.1, WL 6.4, WL 8.2, WL 8.3, WL 12.1, R 3.2, W 1.2, W 1.3, & W 2.3. These recommendations relate the following constraints on the development of the grazing system and establish guidelines for livestock grazing within that system.

1. 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, 55 - 60 percent grasses, and 15-20 percent shrubs.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS  
 (Continued)

2. Establish livestock grazing systems that will enhance the reproduction and forage availability of forbs.
3. 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 to improve watershed and range conditions.

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.

There are two other recommendations in the Range Management, Tikura Allotment, RM 1, 2.2, & R 1, 2.3, that will effect the grazing system and the livestock operators. They are to establish stocking rates for both National Resource Lands and to combine this allotment with the Silver Creek Allotment. See the Multiple-Use Analysis for these recommendations for the additional overview of the situation.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Revise the present grazing system to at least the minimum standards depicted in the above recommendation and allow for inclusion of items 1 through 3 in the Multiple-Use Analysis in the grazing system design and application.

Waterfowl habitat, sage grouse strutting grounds, sage grouse summering areas, 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.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

T.H.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

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.

The present carrying capacity of this allotment has been estimated to be 15 Ac/AUM (see T.H. URA, RM Step 4, p 2) while the active qualifications obligate the National Resource Lands at 9.6 Ac/AUM. "The initial stocking rates are of the utmost importance and must not exceed the 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.

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.

Brush control and aerial seeding projects could offset any needed reduction to carrying capacity if they were accomplished in a timely manner. (Tikura Allot. RM 1, 2.4 & RM 1, 2.5)

Attach additional sheets, if needed

(ions on reverse)

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Activity

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Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

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

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RECOMMENDATIONRATIONALE

RM 1, 2.3

Combine this allotment with the Silver Creek Cattle Allotment (0305) in the Muldoon Unit.

Each of these allotments presently contain two pastures and their present AMPs and grazing systems need to be revised. If they were combined and the proposed grazing system implemented then probably no additional fencing would be necessary. The grazing system could be implemented as soon as the EIS is completed. If the combination of allotments is not accomplished then both allotments would require additional fencing to increase the number of pastures. Water would also be an additional problem.

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.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS  
(Continued)

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Economic advantages to the Government would be realized in fewer needed improvements if the allotments were combined.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

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

Alternative

Do not combine the two allotments.  
Keep and revise the individual AMPs for each allotment.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.4

Treat 3,770 acres of brush to release the forage species. This should be accomplished by spraying with 2, 4-D because of the amount of three-tipped sagebrush in this allotment.

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 100 AUMs of forage over the estimated present carrying capacity which combined with management will produce an additional 219 AUMs. The 100 AUMs would be realized in 4 to 6 years after treatment. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4, p 2).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation for 3,770 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. This recommendation is supported in part by Wildlife (WL 7.1 & WL 1.2) & Watershed (W 1.4) activity recommendations.

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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

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.5

Aerial seed to establish livestock forage species on 3000 acres of the allotment.

This treatment is needed to improve quality and quantity of forage for the present active qualifications. This treatment will produce an additional 120 AUMs of forage over the estimated present carrying capacity. This treatment combined with management is needed to meet the objectives within a reasonable time frame of 10 - 15 years.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation should be modified to include in the proposed seeding project a combination forbs and grass species to improve the vegetative composition for both livestock and wildlife (see WL 1.3, 5.1, 8.3 & 9.2). The Watershed recommendation W 1.5 also supports this recommendation.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reason

Aerial seed a combination of forb and grass species. Total number of acres to be seeded will be determined during project lay-

Aerial seeding of forage species are needed to improve range and watershed conditions within a reasonable time frame. Wildlife habitat would also be improved by seeding both forbs and grasses.

out.  
 Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Recommendation  
(continued)

Reason  
(continued)

Also there is the chance that with this project no reduction in livestock numbers would be required.

Alternative

Do not seed. Manage for improved range and watershed conditions by a grazing system only.