

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
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CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT (CM)

Beason (0401), Cove Creek (0402), The Pasture (0408), Dunes (0409)  
Fricke (0410), Black Butte (0427), Compound (0428), Spring Dale (0433),  
Gwin Ranch (0434)

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1 & 2.1

1. Provide custodial management on allotments listed above.

These areas are too small to implement a grazing system on and cannot be combined with other National Resource Lands because of private lands and natural barriers. Idaho's 5-year goals direct that management efforts outside AMP areas will be directed toward range use supervision as necessary to insure compliance with use authorizations and regulations.

2. Regulate grazing use to provide one of the following grazing treatments:  
a. Defer grazing until after seed ripe each year.  
b. Defer grazing during growing season until seed ripe time every other year.

This will regulate grazing use so that it is not made during the critical growing season each year which will improve vigor of forage plants and encourage seedling development on some years. The overall impact will be to improve range conditions and encourage additional production of forage.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Providing custodial management, as recommended, would have no economic impact on the allottees. However, the proposals to defer grazing until after seed ripe either every other year or each year, could have an adverse economic impact on those allottees whose normal period of use is during the spring. If spring use were shifted to post-seed ripe, those livestock operators would incur additional expenses to provide forage for the livestock. Most of them move their livestock on to the Federal range during the spring while their hay and other crops are being farmed. Shifting the season of use to a later time would preclude farming of a portion of the land and thus increase costs. Additional expenses would occur where fencing private lands away from the Federal range would be necessary. The recommendation conflicts with the following activity recommendations in the respective allotment, as listed below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Activity Recommendation(s) of Major Conflict</u>
Beacon (0401)	WL 9.1, 12.1; W 1.3; L 6.4; M 1.2
Cove Creek (0402)	WL 9.1, 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2
The Pasture (0408)	WL 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2
Dunes (0409)	WL 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Fricke (0410)	WL 8.1, 9.1, 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2
Black Buttes (0427)	WL 9.1, 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2
Compound (0428)	WL 9.1, 12.1; W 1.3; M 1.2; L 31A
Springdale (0433)	WL 6.2, 8.2, 12.1; W 1.3, 3.2, 5.2; M 1.2
Gwin Ranch (0434)	L 3.1, 12.1; W 1.3, 3.2, 5.2; M 1.2

Wildlife WL 3.1, 8.2, 12.1 and watershed, W 1.3 identify the need to retain 40-50 percent of the herbaceous vegetation in the allotments. This conflicts with the recommendation because utilization may exceed 60 percent of the forage plants. Wildlife WL 9.1, and 6.2, identify the need to exclude livestock grazing on wet meadows, along streams and canals. This conflicts with the recommendation because it would reduce available forage for livestock grazing and restrict livestock access to water. Lands 3.1A proposes disposal of Class I and II lands found to be consistent with classification criteria. Such action would reduce available rangeland and thus reduce forage production in the Compound Allotment. Minerals, M 1.2, proposes to lease, 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 on the respective allotments, as listed below. These conflicts should be addressed at the time management direction is decided to insure adequate consideration of all resource values.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>ACTIVITY Recommendations in Minor Conflict</u>
Beacon (0401)	WL 9.2; R 2.1; L 6.4
Cove Creek (0402)	WL 9.2; R 2.1
The Pasture (0408)	R 2.1
Dunes (0409)	R 2.1
Fricke (0410)	WL 8.1, 9.2; R 2.1
Black Butte (0427)	WL 9.2; R 2.1
Compound (0428)	WL 9.2; R 2.1
Springdale (0433)	R 2.1
Gwin Ranch (04034)	WL 2.1; R 2.1

Supporting recommendations by allotment are as follows:

Beacon (0401)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Cove Creek (0402)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
The Pasture	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Dunes (0409)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Fricke (0410)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Black Butte (0427)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Compound (0428)	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2
Springdale (0433)	WL 6.3, 8.3; R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2
Gwin Ranch	R 2.1, 3.2; W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2

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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 area 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.

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 enclosure.

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

**Wet Meadows:** Exclude livestock only where it is demonstrated that significant wildlife habitat is being destroyed by livestock grazing.

Damage caused by livestock grazing may be mitigated by implementing the recommended grazing regulation.

**Streams & Canals:** Fence streams and canals where major critical waterfowl nesting areas are identified. Provide water gaps where feasible.

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

3. Allow disposal of lands within Class I and II irrigation potential classification.

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.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 2.2

1. Allot and regulate the grazing use in accord with R 2.1 on tracts of National Resource Lands that are isolated from other National Resource Lands by natural barriers or private lands.

These areas cannot be feasibly or logically managed with other National Resource Lands due to location and size.

Known unallotted tracts to be considered:

T. 4 S., R. 16 E, Sec. 25 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 4 S., R. 15 E, Sec. 1 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Land located south of Milner-Gooding Canal

T. 6 S., R. 14 E, Sec. 4 & 5, south of railroad tracks

Land adjacent to Mormon Reservoir

T. 5 S., R. 15 E, Sec. 1 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Multiple-Use Analysis

Implementing the recommendation could have an adverse impact on persons who presently permit their livestock to graze on the tracts without license. This adverse impact would be mitigated in the long run because current users would have some assurance that they would be able to run livestock on the areas each year as long as they met license and base property requirements.

The recommendation does not conflict with any specific activity recommendations. However, since little is known about the tracts and their suitability for grazing, major conflicts could occur depending on their location and terrain characteristics.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Modify the recommendation to include the following provisions:

Coordinate allotting and grazing management with all other resource activities.

Livestock grazing may have an adverse impact on other resource values which have not been identified at this time. Coordination is needed to prevent irreversible impacts on other resource values.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple use values should be given overriding consideration.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 2.3

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

The URA indicates that adequate forage is not 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...". (W.O. 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

Stocking rates may be in excess of the present carrying capacity. This recommendation could result in a reduction of grazing use and would therefore have an adverse economic impact on the livestock operations.

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendations.

Supporting recommendations include the following: Watershed W 1.2, 1.3; (W 3.2 & 5.2 apply only to Springdale and Gwin Ranch Allotments); Recreation R 2.1; Range Management RM 1 & 2.1. The following wildlife recommendations support the proposal by individual allotments as follows:

Beacon Allotment	Wildlife, WL 12.1
Cove Creek Allotment	Wildlife, WL 12.1
The Pasture Allotment	Wildlife, WL 12.1
Dunes Allotment	Wildlife, WL 12.1
Fricke Allotment	Wildlife, WL 8.2, 12.1
Black Butte Allotment	Wildlife, WL 12.1
Compound Allotment	Wildlife, WL 8.2, 12.1
Springdale Allotment	Wildlife, WL 8.2, 12.1
Gwin Ranch Allotment	Wildlife, WL 3.1, 12.1

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Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Accept the recommendation as  
listed above.

CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. Allotment combination
2. Range improvement
3. AMPs