

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

B.H. - T.H.

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timme. H:
Activity	Recreation
Objective Number	R-5

OBJECTIVE:

Protect the unusual erosional features in the Gooding City of Rocks, and manage the area primarily for its recreational and public interest values.

RATIONALE:

The Gooding City of Rocks has been recommended for designation as a Registered Natural Landmark. The area contains many unusual and interesting features, and has high potential for use as a recreational area.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

BH

Name (MFP)
<u>Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil</u>
Activity
<u>Recreation</u>
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS

RECOMMENDATION

R-5.1

Close the area to livestock grazing, improve vehicular access, provide minimal facilities, develop hiking trails, and provide directional and interpretive signing.

RATIONALE

This unique area had the potential for supporting substantial recreational use; the recommended actions would promote such use and provide increased public recreation opportunities.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The area identified on the overlay overlaps with the proposed stock trail in range management recommendation RM-2.4. This conflict could be resolved by adjusting the southern boundary of the recreation area to exclude the stock trail. Otherwise, although forage is generally sparse in the City of Rocks area, exclusion of livestock from the entire area would greatly reduce the land available for grazing in the Black Canyon Allotment. Under the present grazing system, the City of Rocks would be subject to heavy grazing only one year out of three. The proposed recreational development would be compatible with all other activity recommendations (particularly watershed W-1) and the local public interest appears to support the recommendation.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Develop the area as recommended, except adjusting the southern boundary to allow for the livestock trail proposed by recommendation RM-2.4 (0418) and at least initially leaving the area open to livestock grazing under the existing AMP. If grazing proves to be a significant conflict with recreational use, at least the intensively used areas should be fenced.

Reasons

The activity recommendation has been modified because the area proposed for a stock trail is not an important part of the City of Rocks. Also, under the present grazing system, livestock use may not interfere with proposed recreational use. If it does, problems can be resolved by limited fencing.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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R.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-6

OBJECTIVE:

Designate, protect, and manage the Fir Grove as an Environmental Education Area.

RATIONALE:

The Fir Grove is one of the most ecologically unusual and interesting areas in the Shoshone District and would make an exceptional Environmental Education Area. At the present time there are no EEA's designated within the District. Although there has been no specific demand for an EEA within the Bennett Hills Unit, the Elementary Junior High, and High Schools at Fairfield, Gooding, and Bliss, would probably be interested in having an area of this type available for their use.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

BH

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

Fir Grove EEA

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

R- 6.1

Retain the Fir Grove in public ownership, designate it as an Environmental Education Area, fence a portion of it from livestock grazing, inform local schools of its availability, and manage it in accordance with instructions in BLM Manual 6129.

The unique variety of vegetation in this area warrants protection and study by young people learning about the natural environment.

Support Needs

Withdraw from mineral entry.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This area is generally steep, rocky, and inaccessible to livestock grazing; therefore, its dedication as an EEA would not significantly affect range management. No valuable minerals are known to exist in the area, and no other activities have proposed any conflicting programs.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reason

Activity recommendation accepted as stated above.

No unresolved conflicts with other activities or values have been identified.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation

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B.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-7

OBJECTIVE:

Maintain the public availability of known collecting areas and record and manage any new areas that become identified.

RATIONALE:

Rockhounding is a relatively popular activity within the Planning Area, and some berrypicking, especially for chokecherries, also occurs. It would be in the public interest to continue to provide opportunities for these activities.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 NO. 1 Step 3

Collecting Areas

RECOMMENDATION

R-7.1
Retain the known areas shown cross-hatched in brown on the overlays in public ownership, insuring that the collectable items continue to be available to the public, and identify and manage new areas for this activity.

RATIONALE

Rockhounding and berrypicking are relatively popular activities within the planning area, and they represent legitimate extensive recreational uses of the National Resource Lands.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The collecting activity has no significant potential for creating conflicts with other uses of the National Resource Lands. Remote possibilities would include inadvertent disturbance of wildlife or livestock, and possibly "collecting" of locatable minerals on a mining claim, or removing a large enough amount of material to be considered saleable under BLM regulations.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the above recommendation while providing for monitoring of the activity to identify any future problems.

Reasons

Problems or conflicts are not presently identified, but could possibly arise in the future.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmer Hill

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-8

OBJECTIVE:

Maintain existing opportunities for off-road vehicle use, and increase the convenience for ORV operators by removing or avoiding obstacles and by providing desired facilities.

RATIONALE:

Off-road vehicle operation is increasingly recognized as a legitimate and important use of National Resource Lands, and this objective would provide for increased use and enjoyment.

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Name (MFP)	Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

County Line SLUP

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

R-8.1

Continue to cooperate with the North Side Snow Riders Snowmobile Club by renewing their Special Land Use Permit and working with them in providing appropriate facilities and parking areas.

This club has proven to be responsible and very interested in helping to provide a safe and convenient place for public recreation. The club serves as a good means of maintaining good communication with a large number of recreationists.

Multiple-Use Analysis

No significant conflicts with other activities have been identified. Some concern has been expressed that a safety hazard is present where the snowmobilers and "tubers" use the same hillside. Also, the cracking of the outhouse base due to settling was pointed out as indicating a need for better planning prior to construction of facilities.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Accept activity recommendation, including working on problems mentioned in Multiple-Use Analysis.

No unresolved conflicts with other activities or values have been identified.

Decision

Reasons

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation, with the following modification:

Pursue recreation use with snowmobile club under Recreation and Public Purposes lease rather than SLUP.

Special land use permit has been authority for subject-type use. However, pursuant to W.O. I.M. 76-353, dated 7/2/76, continuing-type uses on NRL should no longer be authorized by SLUP.

BH/TH

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Name (MFP)		
Bennett Hills-Timme		
Activity		
Recreation		
Overlay Reference	None	
Step 1	Entire P.A.	Step 3

ORV Classification

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

R-8.2

Assuming appropriate ORV regulations are restored, classify all National Resource Lands as "open" for all off-road vehicle use.

The entire area is currently open, providing the maximum opportunity for ORV activities, and distributing the use to accommodate a large number of people without conflicts.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Unrestricted off-road vehicle use presents a major conflict with Wildlife recommendations regarding deer and elk winter range and eagle habitat (WL-2.6, -3.5, and 11.2, respectively). Disturbance is caused by snowmobiling on the big game winter range and by other ORVs near eagle nest sites. A relatively small portion of the Planning Area is involved, and ORVs would need to be restricted for only a few months each year to avoid unnecessary harassment of the wildlife. Although the areas designated do support some current ORV use, they are not considered especially important for ORV operation. No significant conflicts presently exist between ORV use and activities other than management of wildlife management.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Restrict ORV use on the areas shown on the MFP Step I Wildlife Overlays to accommodate the needs expressed in recommendations WL-2.6, WL-3.5, and WL-11.2. Details of the restriction should be developed by the wildlife and recreation specialists.

The activity recommendation was modified to provide for protection of wildlife on particular areas. The remainder of the Planning Area would be classified as "open" for all off-road vehicles.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)
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Activity
Recreation
Overlay Reference
Entire
Step 1 P.A. Step 3

ORV Obstacles

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

R-8.3

Remove any fences or other obstacles which interfere with ORV use; install cattleguards or gates in fences at all roads or trails, and at least every mile, and avoid constructing anything in the future which would conflict with ORV use.

Operation of ORVs is an increasingly popular activity in the Planning Area and this recommendation would serve to maintain or enhance the existing ORV opportunities.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Most of the existing fences are needed for range management and do not present a significant obstacle to ORV use. However, as ORV use patterns become more defined, it will become more important to avoid constructing new fences where they would obstruct substantial ORV use. Gates and cattleguards present a maintenance requirement and also increase the potential of livestock trespass if gates are left open. No conflicts are foreseen with activities other than range management.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Install cattleguards or easy-open gates at every road or trail, in right-hand corners, and at least every mile in all fences. Strongly consider existing and potential ORV use when designing and locating any new fence.

The requirements for cattleguards or gates are specified in BLM Manual 1737, Fencing. Considering ORV use in designing or locating fences will allow for multiple-use management, providing for both range management and recreation.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)