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

NORTH GOODING ALLOTMENT (0419)

RECOMMENDATIONS	RATIONALE
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	Information is needed to substantiate URA estimates and establish baseline data. 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

The URA indicates that additional forage (AUMs) in excess of the present active Class I demand may be available. This recommendation would have a positive economic impact to the livestock operators dependent upon the allotment. The anticipated increase in available forage would be contingent upon proper livestock distribution and also that State and private lands offered for exchange of use would not be reduced sufficiently to offset the potential excess on National Resource Lands within the allotment. Accordingly, the excess available forage would result in increased economic gains for the livestock operators by being able to increase their stocking rates.

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation providing the method used to determine carrying capacity considers other resource needs. This recommendation is not supported by any other activity recommendation.

Multiple-Use Recommendation	Reason
Accept the recommendation as stated above.	Increased stocking rate allowed, that is consistent with other multiple-use resources would increase the livestock operation and would create a positive impact on the local economic base.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RECOMMENDATION

RM 1 and 2.2
1. Under existing Class of livestock and grazing use, implement an AMP with a deferred rotation system that will provide for the physiological requirements of the native grasses and forbs.

RATIONALE

Historically, sheep use in the allotment has been lighter in intensity and earlier in the growing season than cattle, and the grass species have been able to regrow and sustain fair to good range vigor. Some areas of this allotment have received much heavier use than others because of the large amount of trailing. a deferred rotation system would allow adequate rest for the vegetation under these conditions to provide for the needs of the forage plants and will result in improved range condition and increased forage production.

Support

Provide north-south access from when the trail sheep enter the allotment (Sec. 26, T. 4 S., R. 14 E.) to the Little City of Rocks (Sec. 32, T. 3 S., R. 15 E.). This is needed to facilitate trailing use supervision and provide better distribution.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation would restrict the flexibility presently exercised by the sheepmen in allowing their sheep to graze anywhere over the entire allotment. The proposal would also reduce the area that could be grazed each year and therefore, restrict the number of sheep bands the allottees are willing to run in the allotment which would be an adverse economic impact.

These negative impacts may be mitigated by the potential positive impact from increased forage production through implementation of an acceptable grazing system (AMP).

This recommendation would conflict with the following resources: Wildlife (WL 1.1, 3.1, 8.2, 12.1) and Watershed (W 1.3) identify the need to retain 40 percent to 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) and Watershed (W 3.3) identify the need to exclude livestock 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. Lands (L 3.1A) proposes disposal of Class I and II lands found to be consistent with classification criteria. Such an action would result in loss of range in the allotment, and could disrupt the proposed grazing system. 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: WL 1.4, 2.1, 8.1; R 2.1. These conflicting proposals should be addressed at the time the existing Clover Creek AMP is revised to insure all resource values are given proper consideration.

Supporting recommendations include the following: WL 5.1, 6.3, 8.3, 9.2, 12.2 13.3; W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; R 2.1; RM 2.1 (0419).

Multiple-Use Recommendations	Reasons
Modify the recommendation to include the following provisions in addition to those stated above:	
1. Do not exceed 60 percent utiliaztion 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, spring, and streams from intensive livestock use which normally occurs as follows:	
Springs: Coordinate protection with wildlife needs. Where significant wildlife values are identified and conflict occurs, fence spring source area to exclude livestock and make water available to livestock outside the exclosure.	Livestock congregating on spring source areas denude vegetation essential to sage grouse broods and other wildlife species.

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 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.
Support Needs: Accept the recommendations as stated above. Acquire easement on private lands.	

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NORTH GOODING ALLOTMENT (0419)

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
RM 1 & 2.3 1. Prior to allowing conversion of sheep use to cattle use, implement a rest-rotation grazing system that will provide for plant vigor, seed production, seed tromp, and seedling establishment of native key forage species.	Conversion of sheep use to cattle use will result in activation of non-use previously held by sheep operators and will increase actual grazing use on areas previously grazed by sheep. The increased grazing pressure could cause the range condition to decline. In general, the recognized Class I demand allows grazing use in excess of the carrying capacity of the range. 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 livestock grazing is a significant use." (1603.12G4c). 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 1530 additional AUMs can be produced annually within a 15-20 year period with proper management.
2. 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 regulated.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation would result in a more restrictive grazing system than required for the sheep use alone, and would probably result in less area open to grazing for sheep. With less area open to grazing the allottees would probably choose to run fewer bands of sheep in the allotment because of the crowding situation they feel undesirable. Therefore, an adverse economic situation would occur to the sheep operators.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Wildlife (WL 1.1, 3.1, 8.2, 12.1) and Watershed (W 1.3) identify the need to retain 40 percent to 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) and Watershed (W 3.3) identify the need to exclude livestock 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. Lands (L 3.1A) proposes disposal of Class I and II lands found to be consistent with classification criteria. Such an action would result in loss of range in the allotment, and could disrupt the proposed grazing system. Minerals (M1.2) 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: WL 1.4, 2.1, 8.1; R 2.1. These conflicting proposals should be addressed at the time the existing Clover Creek AMP is revised to insure all resource values are given proper consideration.

Supporting recommendations include the following: WL 5.1, 6.3, 8.3, 9.2, 12.2, 13.3; W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; R 2.1; RM 2.1 (0419).

Multiple-Use Recommendation	Reason
Accept recommendations as stated above. Include the provisions identified in the Multiple-Use Recommendation of RM 1 & 2.2 (0419).	

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NORTH GOODING ALLOTMENT (0419)

RECOMMENDATIONS	RATIONALE
RM 1 & 2.4 Remove competing cheatgrass and brush species on approximately 4300 acres and remove brush and seed approximately 3975 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 time frame of 10-15 years. Approximately 875 additional AUMs will be produced annually from the 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(0419). Positive economic impacts would result from the recommendation. Where wildlife values 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 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 14.6, 14.12, 14.15, and Minerals, M 1.2 which would restrict or constrain layout and method of the land treatments as recommended. The recreation recommendations deal primarily with visual impact of land treatments and the effect the recommended treatments would have on archaeological sites. The minerals proposal deals with restriction on land treatment 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, resulting in loss of potential forage increases for livestock.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: Wildlife, WL 2.8, 5.2, 9.3, and Recreation, R 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, 6.1, 12.2, 13.3; Watershed, W 1.4, 1.5, 5.2; Recreation, R 2.1.

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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 an allotment management plan and implement 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. Disruption of livestock use can be minimized by planning treatments within grazing pastures and in accord with the grazing sequence. BLM Policy
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).	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.
3. Propose no land treatments on lands that have Class I and II irrigation potential pending outcome of classification	Range improvement investment should not be made on lands that may be disposed of for agricultural purposes.
4. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.	Present information is insufficient to determine impacts of geothermal development on land treatment. Any mineral development at this time appears to be improbable.
5. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.	Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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NORTH GOODING ALLOTMENT (0419)

RECOMMENDATION

RM 2.5
Adjust allotment boundaries to exclude that part of the allotment between Highway 46 and the last boundary fence that lies adjacent to the Rattlesnake Allotment.

RATIONALE

This area is ½ mile wide and several miles long. It is difficult to utilize with sheep because the highway is not fenced. If the conversion trend from sheep to cattle continues as indicated in the PAA, the highway would have to be fenced before cattle could utilize the area. This would result in a long, narrow pasture, isolated from the rest of the allotment, and would not be equal in carrying capacity with other pastures. It is not feasible or logical to manage this strip of land with this allotment. It could be feasibly managed with the Rattlesnake Allotment. This change would not make an economic hardship on any of the allottees.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation would not adversely affect the local livestock operators dependent upon the allotment for important spring and fall forage, other than through a possible loss of some flexibility in moving their bands of sheep. This loss of flexibility would result from a reduction in allotment acreage (spring forage) by fencing that area east of Highway 46 with the Rattlesnake Allotment. However, this loss would be mitigated by allowing some sheep use in the adjoining Rattlesnake Allotment for the forage removed by the boundary adjustment. Consequently, this recommendation should benefit management on both allotments involved in the adjustment with no adverse economic impact to the allottees.

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendations.

The following recommendations which support grazing systems would also complement this proposal: Wildlife, WL 5.1, 6.3, 8.3, 12.2, 13.3; Watershed, W 1.2, 3.2, 5.2; Recreation, R 2.1, 3.2.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Accept the recommendation as stated above.

Reason

The recommendation was accepted because of benefits provided to administration and management of the range resource, and the small adverse impact to the allottees.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed