

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Activity
Wildlife

Objective Number
4

OBJECTIVE:

Determine the feasibility of expanding the antelope habitat in both the Bennett and Timmerman Hills Planning Units in order to provide huntable population by 1980.

RATIONALE:

The PAA states that the public would like to see more antelope throughout the planning units. In addition the URA has made the assumption that additional animals could be maintained if habitat conditions are maintained and/or improved. However, the URA also identifies that information is lacking concerning both the habitat conditions and animal population characteristics. Consequently, before the Bureau can effectively manage antelope habitat, studies will have to be initiated.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T.H.

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

ANTELOPE (a)

RECOMMENDATION

WL 4.1

Cooperatively with the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game initiate studies to determine: 1) the population characteristics of the antelope herds; 2) the limiting habitat factors, if any, that have prevented the animals from expanding their distribution; 3) the present antelope distribution throughout the year.

RATIONALE

The same rationale presented for objective No. 4 is applicable to this recommendation.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation will cause no adverse social, environmental, or economic impacts, nor does it conflict with other resource activity recommendations.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the recommendations as stated above.

Reasons

Refer to the above Multiple-Use Analysis and Rationale.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Activity

Wildlife

Objective Number

5

OBJECTIVES:

Manage 59,000 acres of antelope habitat in the Timmerman and Bennett Hills Planning Units.

RATIONALE:

The rationale presented for objective 4 applies to this objective as well. In addition, in order to maintain the present base population of antelope the limited amount of habitat identified in the URA should be maintained and/or improved.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T. H.

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill

Activity
Wildlife

Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

ANTELOPE (a)

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

WL 5.1

Establish and maintain a vegetative composition such that succulent forbs comprise between 15- 20 percent of the vegetation on antelope ranges.

Food habit studies show that forbs comprise more than 60 percent of the antelope summer diet. Succulent summer forbs appear to be lacking throughout most of the antelope range. Consequently, the introduction or establishment of forbs could substantially improve the ranges for antelope.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with other resource activity recommendations, nor will it produce any adverse social, economic, or environmental impacts.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Accept the recommendations as stated above.

Refer to the above Multiple-Use Analysis and Rationale.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

ANTELOPE (a)

RECOMMENDATION

WL 5.2

Maintain randomly distributed sagebrush patches, 2- 4 acres in size (canopy cover > 20 percent, brush height > 40 cm) throughout the identified antelope habitat.

RATIONALE

Idaho studies indicate that antelope fawning sites normally occur within sagebrush and that fawns will normally remain in such brush until two weeks old. Consequently, these patches are required in order to provide adequate fawn cover and fawning sites.

Multiple-Use Analysis

This recommendation could provide a minor conflict with the range management recommendation dealing with sagebrush removal. However, the patches of brush maintained are extremely small and the preservation of these patches will not adversely impact a brush removal project of any size. The environmental affects will be enhanced by providing fawning site for antelope in addition to habitat for other wildlife.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the recommendations as stated above.

Reasons

Refer to the above Multiple-Use Analysis and Rationale.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

B.H. - T. H.
Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hill
Activity
Wildlife
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

ANTELOPE (a)

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

WL 5.3

All new fences constructed on antelope ranges should be constructed according to specifications presented in the 1737 Fencing Manual. Any existing fence that impedes or alters antelope movement should be modified to allow their passage.

Studies have shown that antelope normally prefer to go under or through fences rather than jump them. Consequently, when confronted with a fence which cannot be negotiated in this manner, their access is blocked. In order to maintain unimpaired movement of animals the fence specifications outlined in BLM Manual 1737 should be employed.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Since this recommendation conforms with the 1737 Fencing Manual it is assumed that the social, economic, and environmental impacts were assessed prior to the manual release and found to be favorable in conjunction with the above recommendation.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Accept the recommendations as stated above.

Refer to the above Multiple-Use Analysis and Rationale.

Decision

Adopt the Step 2 multiple use recommendation.