

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Bruneau

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W/L-t9 Step 3 D-2

W/L-2.3: Multiple Use Recommendation

Improve or maintain 190 miles of river otter habitat in the Snake, Owyhee and Bruneau Rivers and other major creeks shown on overlay W/L-t9. Specific management needed to obtain good ecological condition of riparian habitats and good stream habitat condition includes:

- (1) Develop livestock grazing systems which will result in improved riparian habitat conditions within all river otter habitat. Where implementation of such systems is not practical, limit livestock access to riparian habitats to those areas necessary for providing livestock water (water gaps). The following areas should be managed to exclude livestock use: the canyons of the Owyhee and main stem Bruneau Rivers, Sheep and Battle Creeks, and that portion of the West Fork of the Bruneau River not in the Bruneau Canyon Allotment.
- (2) Develop livestock grazing systems designed to improve riparian and stream habitat conditions in the headwater reaches of streams comprising river otter habitat (see riparian section).

Analysis:

The BPU contains a significant amount of otter habitat. Much of this habitat is in fair or poor ecological condition. These habitats have the potential to improve rapidly if livestock concentration in these areas can be reduced.

Decision:

Improve or maintain 190 miles of river otter habitat in the Snake, Owyhee and Bruneau Rivers and other major creeks shown on overlay W/L-t9. Specific management needed to obtain good ecological condition of riparian habitats and good stream habitat condition includes:

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION W/L-2.3

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- (1) Modify to read: Develop livestock grazing systems/improvements (i.e. salting/fencing) which will result in improved riparian habitat conditions within all river otter habitat. Where implementation of such systems/improvements is not practical and reasonable upward trends cannot be achieved, limit livestock access only to those riparian habitats necessary for providing livestock water (water gaps). The following areas should be managed for wildlife primarily and livestock secondarily: the canyons of the Owyhee and main stem Bruneau Rivers, Sheep and Battle Creeks, and that portion of the West Fork of the Bruneau River not in the Bruneau Canyon Allotment.
- (2) Accept as written.

Reason:

The decision is to improve or maintain river otter habitat, if that can be done without excluding other uses. This decision becomes binding on AMP's, HMP's, SRMA, Wilderness, etc.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Step 1 W/L-t9 Step 3 D-2

W/L-2.4: Multiple Use Recommendation

Protect known ferruginous hawk nest sites and adjacent hunting habitat from inconsistent land uses. Specifically:

- (1) Retain ferruginous hawk habitat in public ownership, but allow exchanges if higher quality habitat can be acquired within ferruginous hawk ranges and such exchanges are in the best interest of the public. This area extends approximately 1.5 miles from nest sites.
- (2) Where rangeland reseeding is conducted, provide for a mixture of shrubs, forbs and grasses to support prey populations for ferruginous hawks.
- (3) Provide for alternative road alignment if road construction is contemplated within 1/4 mile of nest sites to keep human disturbance problems minimized. Mitigate the loss, if the road alignment cannot be modified.
- (4) Where applications for organized ORV events are in the vicinity of nest sites during the nesting season (April 1 - June 30), realign courses to be at least 1/4 mile away from active nests.

Analysis:

Ferruginous hawks are uncommon in the BPU. In order to maintain these breeding birds it is necessary to 1) manage their hunting habitat to retain suitable prey abundance and 2) minimize human disturbance in the vicinity of the nest site.

Decision:

Accept as written.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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W/L-2.5: Multiple Use Recommendation

Expand the distribution of ferruginous hawk nest sites on the Snake River Plains by constructing nesting structures or planting trees for nesting in secluded areas.

Analysis:

Ferruginous hawk distribution is frequently limited by a lack of suitable nest sites. Nesting structures now in place have been quite successful and the opportunity to provide for additional nesting pairs exist.

Decision:

Accept as written.

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Name (MFP)	Bruneau
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Overlay Reference	Step 1W/L-t9 Step 3

W/L-2.6: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage burrowing owl habitat on the Snake River Plains to maintain existing populations of these birds. Specifically:

- (1) Maintain existing nest sites, whenever possible. Mitigate losses if other uses are deemed more appropriate.
- (2) If major land disposals are undertaken, maintain "isolated tracts" of public land suitable for burrowing owl nesting.

Analysis:

Burrowing owls are quite adaptable to many land uses (grazing, agriculture, mining, ORV's, etc.) providing a suitable burrow is available for nesting. The species will also readily adapt to "new" habitat when it is made available.

Decision:

Accept with the following modification:

- (2) If major land disposals are undertaken, retain tracts of public land of sufficient size and suitability for burrowing owl nest sites.

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Step W/L-t9 Step 3 D-2

W/L-2.7: Multiple Use Recommendation

Implement intensive livestock management or protective riparian habitat fencing to improve mountain quail habitat in the following areas and in compliance with IMP and/or Wilderness Management Plans:

- (1) Shoofly Creek - both forks
- (2) Big Jacks Creek
- (3) Cottonwood Creek
- (4) Duncan Creek

Analysis:

Mountain quail historically provided a great deal of hunter recreation. Present populations are so small that seeing mountain quail is a rarity.

These birds are closely associated with dense riparian habitats. Most of this type of riparian habitat in the BPU is in fair or poor condition due to the concentration of livestock. Changes in stocking rates, seasons of use, grazing systems, and management practices such as salting are needed to improve these habitats.

Decision:

Accept as written.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Step 1W/L-19 Step 3 D-2

W/L-2.8: Multiple Use Recommendation

Retain tracts of public land in the Duck Valley area which constitute white-faced ibis habitat, but allow exchanges if higher quality habitat can be acquired.

Analysis:

This is the only known and identified nesting area for white-faced ibis in the Boise District.

Decision:

Accept with the following stipulation:

If cultural protection can be worked out with BLM and SHPO. Allow the Riddle Exchange (also see L-4.1).

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)
Bruneau

Activity
Wildlife (4350)

Objective Number
#3

Objective #3:

Manage 1,143,000 acres of big game habitat in the BPU (see overlay W/L-t1, 2 and 3) to obtain good ecological condition.

Rationale:

Mule deer and antelope are significant big game species in the BRA (bighorns are discussed in Sensitive Species section). Presently deer and antelope numbers are low compared to historical peaks. The IDF&G goals are to increase the population of deer and antelope approximately 20% by 1985 in the BRA. Presently mule deer populations are increasing; antelope populations are stable.

Currently 75% of mule deer habitat, and 75% of the antelope habitat is in poor or fair ecological condition. Habitats in these condition classes do not supply the forage diversity necessary to provide these animals with quality diets. Improvement to good ecological condition would result in a variety of perennial forbs, grasses and palatable browse becoming available to these big game species.

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Name (MFP)

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Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W/L-t10 Step 3 D-2

W/L-3.1: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage 359,650 acres of mule deer winter and early spring range in the BPU including those areas under Wilderness IMP classification and within IMP management guidelines, so there is adequate food, cover and water for 2,255 animals by 1990. Specifically:

- (1) In order to provide sufficient forage for mule deer in the BPU, allocate forage as shown in Table 1, which reflects the AUM's that are competitive with livestock.
- (2) Implement livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of shrubs. Design all systems to improve palatable shrub composition, reproduction and forage availability. Allow livestock to consume no more than 30% of the current annual production of key shrub species such as bitterbrush.
- (3) On unspecified suitable sites within crucial mule deer winter range that presently have less than 10% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component, improve winter forage by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush or other palatable shrub species.
- (4) On crucial mule deer winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings (not exceeding a width of 1/4 mile) of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye to improve deer nutrition in the early spring period. Do not allow livestock turnout in these areas earlier than the surrounding native range is capable of withstanding. Design vegetation manipulation projects to maintain or achieve in the vegetative community a 60/40 forage to cover ratio (a patchwork of vegetation, not canopy coverage within cover stands).
- (5) Use chaining or prescribed burning to achieve a 60/40 forage to cover ratio on winter use areas dominated by tall old stands of big sagebrush. Followup

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Step 1 W/L-t10 Step 3 D-2

with seeding a mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs if native plants are insufficient to reestablish a diverser vegetation cover.

- (6) On crucial deer winter ranges restrict vehicular travel to existing roads from December 15 through April 15.
- (7) Avoid new road construction in areas identified as mule deer crucial winter range (Overlay URA IV, #W/L-t11). If new road construction is absolutely necessary, permanently close and rehabilitate at least an equivalent amount of roads in the same vicinity.
- (8) Within mule deer crucial winter range, retain existing public land. Allow exchanges for State and/or private lands if such exchanges will result in acquisition of higher quality habitat.
- (9) Designate deer winter ranges as high priority fire suppression areas, unless the area is designated for prescribed burning and the wildfire occurs under similar conditions for such a burn.

Analysis:

Seasonal diets, weights and consumption rates of healthy mule deer population were obtained through cooperation and assistance of IDF&G. Population goals were also obtained from IDF&G. When combined a total forage demand was calculated. Allowing 50% total utilization of key forage species should meet plant growth requirements. Leaving 20% of the allowable utilization should provide sufficient diet for mule deer on winter range. Excessive disturbance on winter ranges coupled with cold temperature and high energy demand results in stress that can lead to death (also see W/L-3.1, MFP I and II).

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
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Name (MFP)

Bruneau

Activity

Wildlife

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Step 1W/L-t10 Step 3 D-2

Decision:

Accept/modify/reject as follows:

Accept general as written.

- (1) Reject in preference to RM-3.1. The habitat will be monitored to adjust livestock use to provide for 2255 mule deer by 1990.
- (2) Accept as written.
- (3) Accept with the following: in accordance with IMP for wilderness.
- (4) Accept with the following modification:
Change (not exceeding a width of 1/4 mile) to (generally not exceeding a width of 1/4 mile).
Change: "of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye" to "of Siberian wheatgrass and russian wildrye or other suitable grasses."
- (5) Accept with the following: in accordance with IMP for wilderness, and prescribed burning should be the primary tool.
- (6) Modify to read: on critical deer winter ranges restrict/close roads to vehicular travel if necessary during critical time periods (generally 12/15-4/15).
- (7) Accept as written.
- (8) Accept as written.
- (9) Accept as written (see RM-4.1).
- (10) The population goals of 2255 mule deer by 1990 is subject to review and change in consultation with the Idaho Fish and Game goals.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Step 1 W/L-t10 Step 3

W/L-3.2: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage 1,106,000 acres of mule deer spring, summer and fall range in the BPU including those areas under Wilderness IMP classification and within IMP management guidelines so there is adequate food, cover and water for 2,155 animals by 1990. Specifically:

- (1) In order to provide sufficient forage for mule deer in the BPU, allocate forage as shown in Table 1, which reflects the AUM's that are competitive with livestock.
- (2) On juniper and big sage sites where forage areas are inadequate manipulate the vegetation to achieve 60/40 forage to cover ratio. Manipulations will be designed so that forage improvements make use of areas with good soil development and do not exceed one-fourth mile in width. Optimum design would retain continuous zones of interconnecting cover (600-1200 feet wide) as well as associated cover patches (6-26 acres). These cover areas should make use of existing vegetative cover, rims, canyons and riparian zones.

All range revegetation projects proposed in deer use areas, including fire rehabilitation, will include a variety of palatable shrubs, forbs and grasses. Any vegetation manipulations along migration routes will retain adequate hiding and thermal cover.

- (3) Implement livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs. Design all systems to improve composition, reproduction and forage availability of palatable forbs and shrubs in both upland and riparian habitats. Allow no more than 50% total utilization of the current annual production of key shrub species by all classes of animals combined.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)

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Step 1W/L-t10 Step 3

- (4) To minimize human disturbance to mule deer, avoid constructing roads within or closely adjacent to riparian habitats.
- (5) Maintain water in all developed catchments, pipelines, troughs and springs to meet big game needs from July 15 until October 31 of each year.
- (6) Retain all public lands within and closely adjacent to migration routes for mule deer, but allow exchanges if higher quality habitat can be acquired.
- (7) Within proposed primitive and semi-primitive special recreation management areas and on steep watersheds, prescribed burning shall be the primary tool for habitat improvement.

Analysis:

See W/L-3.1 Analysis and W/L-3.2, MFP I and II.

Decision:

Accept/modify/reject as follows:

Accept general as written.

- (1) Reject in preference to RM-3.1. The habitat will be monitored to adjust livestock use to provide for 2155 mule deer by 1990.
- (2) Accept with following modification:

Change - do not exceed 1/4 mile in width to generally not exceed 1/4 mile in width.

Add - Prescribed burn should be the primary tool.

Add - and in accordance with IMP for Wilderness.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.

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- (3) Accept as written.
- (4) Accept as written.
- (5) Accept with the following, where this is not feasible consider wildlife guzzlers.
- (6) Accept as written.
- (7) Reject in preference to R-1.1(4) and #2 above.
- (8) The population goals of 2155 mule deer by 1990 is subject to review and change in consultation with the Idaho Fish and Game goals.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

(Instructions on reverse)