

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Bruneau

Activity

Range Management

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

RM-2.1: Multiple Use Recommendation

Treat (spray, burn or shred) approximately 29,000 acres of existing seeding described below to reduce invading brush species, improve forage production and range condition. In most cases, maintaining and/or expanding existing seedings will have preference over established new seedings.

<u>Allotment No. and Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
0801 Castle Creek*	1,132
0809 Center	9,804
0811 Canyon View Seeding*	4,817
0812 Miller Table Seeding	1,593
0845 North Grasmere Seeding*	1,225
0846 South Grasmere Seeding	1,753
0852 North Sheep Creek Seeding	2,699
0853 South Sheep Creek Seeding*	2,172
0855 North J.P. Seeding*	1,990
0856 South J.P. Seeding	<u>1,724</u>
	28,909 +

*Allotments with forage deficiencies.

1. If pesticides/herbicides spraying techniques are used for treating existing seedings, a buffer zone of 150 feet will be established around perennial streams and riparian habitat areas to ensure no chemicals effect those areas.
2. In areas identified as winter range for mule deer, antelope, and sage grouse, allow for a sufficient forage to cover ratio that will meet these species needs.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Analysis:

Treating existing seedings will prolong the life and productivity of these important forage producing areas. This in turn will allow native ranges important to both livestock and wildlife to recover and improve. Five of the ten seedings identified for treatment are in allotments where forage deficiencies were identified during the range inventory. Increasing forage production by treating these seedings will reduce the economic impacts on the livestock permittees in the affected allotments.

Wildlife and fisheries/riparian needs will be met if spraying is not allowed within 150 feet of riparian areas and if sufficient cover is left within treated areas. The treatment techniques (burning, spraying, or shredding), acreages, and buffer areas will be selected during the activity planning process.

Decision:

Modify RM-2.1 to consider maintenance treatments on an additional 21,300 acres of existing seedings in the Center, Southeast, Northwest, and Battle Creek Allotments.

Reasons:

During the compilation process, these seedings were not included in the original RM-2.1 Multiple Use Recommendation. The acreage figures in the above tables are estimates.

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RM-2.2: Multiple Use Recommendation

Treat 85,600 acres (44,800 acres brush control and 40,800 acres brush control and reseed) (Table 1) of potentially suitable native range to reduce invasion of less desirable brush and annual grass species, improve range condition, and increase grazing capacity (see attached treatment table).

Table 1
Bruneau PU Land Treatment

Allotment	Brush Control (Acres)	Brush Control and Reseed (Acres)
801 Castle Creek	2,000	11,200
802 Battle Creek	10,800	2,500
803 Big Springs	9,700	400
804 Bennett	900	1,000
805 Riddle	12,000	9,700
808 Northwest	1,200	700
809 Center	800	0
812 Miller Table Seeding	0	1,100
840 Strickland-Hall-Yates	800	0
842 M & L	0	1,200
843 Simplot	1,700	7,500
844 Tindall & Sons	800	3,000
845 Antelope Creek	900	700
846 Alzola	<u>3,200</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	44,800	40,800

The following stipulations will apply:

1. If pesticides/herbicides spraying techniques are used for treating native rangelands, a buffer zone of 150 feet will be established around perennial streams and riparian habitat areas to ensure no chemicals affect those areas.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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2. In areas identified as winter range for mule deer, antelope, and sage grouse, allow for a sufficient forage to cover ratio that will meet these species needs.
3. Do not treat 900 acres of brush control in the Big Springs Allotment and 700 acres of brush control and reseeding in the Battle Creek Allotment that lies within areas recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.
4. Projects will be designated with irregular control lines, feathered edges and natural contours. Drainages and occasional brush islands will be left untreated on sites treated by mechanical means.
5. In areas classified as primitive or semi-primitive treatment will be conducted so that that ensuing landscape is natural-appearing to the casual observer.

Analysis:

Of the 349,000 acres identified as potentially suitable for treatment, 136,000 acres could be burned or sprayed without reseeding. Reseeding would be required on the other 213,000 acres of potentially treatable range after spraying or burning.

Objectives of this treatment program are to improve ecological condition and produce more forage for livestock and wildlife. Specific treatment areas and techniques will be identified during the development of activity plans. The acreages identified for treatment by allotment are rough estimates with the primary criteria for the determination of acreages to be treated being the reduction in grazing indicated in the range inventory.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION RM-2.2

Name (MFP)	
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Decision:

Modify RM-2.2 to read, "Treat an estimated 85,600 acres of potentially suitable native range to improve ecological condition and increase forage production for livestock and wildlife." See Table 1 for estimated treatment acreages by allotment. These acreages by allotment probably will change as activity plans are developed.

Stipulations 1, 2, and 4 will remain as written. Stipulation 3 will be modified to state, "Brush control by prescribed burning within WSAs will be evaluated on a case by case basis with full input by interested parties." Brush control by any other means except by burning will not be allowed. Spraying or artificial reseeding will not be allowed in WSAs until a final decision is made on wilderness designation or in ACECs (see W/L-2.1, WN-1.1, 1.3 & 1.4).

Stipulation 5 is deleted.

Reasons:

The acreages identified in Table 1 are rough estimates based on soil suitability, range condition, and forage deficiencies of the allotments. On the ground site selection and coordination with livestock and wildlife representatives during the activity planning process will be required prior to treatment. Also, BLM's final Rangeland Improvement Policy (I.M. No. 83-27) directs us to do investment analyses prior to project implementation. This may affect the amount of treatment acres on an allotment basis.

Stipulation 3 was modified to allow prescribed burning within WSAs on a case by case basis if improvement of ecological condition is the objective. Prescribed burning in WSAs is allowable under the Wilderness Interim Management regulations.

Stipulation 5 was deleted in MFP II (see R-1.1(4)).

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

-Bruneau

Activity

Range Management

Objective Number

#3

Objective #3:

Allocate livestock forage in each of the allotments in the Bruneau Planning Unit within the limits necessary to maintain and/or enhance the range and soil resource.

Rationale:

Forage consumption by livestock must be balanced with forage production in order to properly manage the range resource. This objective is designed to correct present range management problems identified in URA Step 3, that is use of preferred species above the biological limits necessary for survival and reproduction. This objective also reflects the livestock use problems identified in URA Step 4.

Once the density of preferred species i.e. plants that decrease under heavy livestock use are reduced or lost, management techniques to restore them are expensive and require long time periods to be effective. The preferred or desirable species for livestock use includes bunchgrasses and other herbaceous species.

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RM-3.1: Multiple Use Recommendation

Allocate forage according to Table RM-3.1 MFP II.

Analysis:

The total forage production as determined by a inventory was divided between livestock, wildlife and nonconsumptive uses in each allotment. Allowable use factors were applied to each species to account for its tolerance to grazing during the season of use. Wildlife AUM's were allocated prior to allocating AUM's to livestock.

Decision:

Reject.

Initial livestock use levels by allotment will be established at the five-year licensed active use levels from the years 1976-80 or by mutual agreement. Any subsequent increase or reduction in AUM's through the five-year implementation schedule will be based on monitoring, and other resource needs as identified in this MFP and any other reasonable requirements as deemed necessary.

The following implementation schedule by allotment is recommended:

Allotment	5-Year Licensed Use	Adjustment(%) From 5-Year Licensed Use	Implementation Schedule				
			Year 1	Year 3		Year 5	
			AUM's	AUM's	%*	AUM's	%*
801-Castle Ck.	21,610	- 33	21,610	19,449	-10	14,400	-23
802-Battle Ck.	13,290	- 15	13,290	12,625	- 5	11,282	-10

* Represents increase or decrease in AUM's from previous (Year 1 or 3) adjustments.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RM-3.1

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Allotment	5-Year Licensed Use	Adjustment(%) From 5-Year Licensed Use	Implementation Schedule				
			Year 1	Year 3		Year 5	
			AUM's	AUM's	%*	AUM's	%*
803-Big Springs	16,248	- 12	16,248	15,436	- 5	14,254	- 7
804-Bennett	717	- 11	717	681	- 5	641	- 6
805-Riddle	23,475	- 37	23,475	21,128	-10	14,859	-27
806-Pole Creek	125	+ 2	125	128	+ 2	128	--
807-Camas Ck. Pocket	375	+ 40	375	450	+20	525	+20
808-Northwest	10,363	+ 81	10,363	13,118	+27	18,712	+54
809-Center	5,896	+201	5,896	10,000	+70	17,774	+121
810-Scotts Table	576	+ 13	576	647	+13	647	--
811-Canyon View Seeding	837	+107	837	1,285	+53	1,735	+54
812-Miller Table Seeding	685	+ 43	685	835	+42	980	+41
840-Strickland, Hall & Yates (840,847)	2,666	+ 16**	2,666	2,927	+10	3,084	+ 6
841-Buckhorn (859, 868)	444	+ 47**	444	547	+23	651	+24
842-M&L (839,850,869)	822	+ 89**	822	1,157	+44	1,552	+45
843-Simplot (843-845, 849,853-855,862, 863,867)	5,342	+ 44**	5,342	6,521	+22	7,701	+22
844-Tindall & Sons (841,842,846,848, 851,860,861)	6,224	+ 10**	6,224	6,871	+10	6,871	--
845-Antelope Creek (852 & 858)	2,135	+ 30**	2,135	2,452	+15	2,768	+ 7
846-Alzola (856,857,864, 865 & 866)	5,255	- 13**	5,255	4,585	- 6	4,585	- 7

* Represents increase or decrease in AUM's from previous (Year 1 & 3) adjustments.

** Licensed use calculated for years 1976-1979 prior to the division of the Southeast Allotment into private allotments. Southeast Allotment was composed of 840-846 prior to 1980.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)	Bruneau
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Provide sufficient food, cover, space and water for big game in accordance with W/L-2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 through monitoring. The monitoring will be within the key wildlife areas of the habitat.

Reason:

Since the time multiple use recommendation RM-3.1 was made, a BLM directive (I.M. No. ID-82-297 and W.O. I.M. 83-340) has been implemented which states that SVIM type inventory data will no longer be used in allocating forage. Therefore the initial stocking rate to begin the five year implementation period must be based on prior livestock use levels (i.e. licensed use) since actual use data is not available. Changes in livestock use levels would be made during Year 3 and/or Year 5 and monitored in the intervening years. The final livestock use level would be established at the end of Year 5.

Final stocking rates will be adjusted to meet the big game in accordance with W/L-2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and fisheries condition decisions in W/L-aq-2.1, 2.2.

The final livestock stocking rate recommended in year 5 is derived from SVIM inventory data. This livestock use level may or may not be reached depending on the results of the monitoring studies.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)
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Activity
Range Management
Objective Number
#4

Objective #4:

Initiate a Minimal Fire Suppression Plan that allows for protection of erosive soil, protects present forage production, does not contribute to the deterioration of range condition and allows for protection of private property.

Rationale:

The area indicated on overlay RM-6 should receive limited fire suppression. This area is in at least fair range condition. Soil erosion is not considered critical and there is an adequate seed source of perennial grass available for natural revegetation. Historically the fire frequency for this area is low. Those wildfires that do occur generally do not reach a large size. Due to the availability of a perennial seed source, the current range condition being at a minimum of fair and the lack of serious soil erosion problems, the occurrence of wildfire should not have a long term adverse affect on the soil or vegetation. Furthermore, the heavy population areas do not fall within this area.

Should wildfire occur within this boundary all precautions should be made to insure deterioration of the soil and a decline in range condition does not occur. Live-stock grazing should be deferred for a minimum of one growing season, preferably two growing seasons. This will allow seed reestablishment and protection from soil erosion.

The remainder of the planning unit should continue to receive active fire suppression. Here soils are more erosive, the range is in poor range condition and the availability of a seed source reestablishing desirable perennial grass is lacking. The heavy population areas can also be found within this boundary. Should wildfire occur in this area, the range condition would deteriorate further and soil erosion would accelerate.

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Step 1 RM-7 Step 3

RM-4.1: Multiple Use Recommendation

Provide fire suppression efforts within the limited suppression areas areas where fire will severely deplete the forage which is necessary to sustain mule deer, or sage grouse winter concentrations.

Analysis:

Soil erosion is not considered critical and there is an adequate seed source of perennial grass understory. Fire frequency and size has been small.

Decision:

Defer this decision as written:

Develop a fire management plan for the planning unit by 9/30/84. This plan should incorporate all high value resources such as but not limited to bighorn sheep, mule deer, redband trout, livestock grazing, etc. as outlined in the MFP III Decisions. No limited suppression areas will be designated in the Planning Unit.

Rationale:

The scope of a fire management plan is very detailed and should be guided by the MFP III Decisions, a large portion of the area is under Interim Wilderness Management, and has sensitive wildlife species as well as T&E plants scattered throughout. Limited suppression areas will not be designated because of the high resource values in the planning unit. Although fire occurrence is low, the distance to travel once a fire is reported is significant, a fire usually is an extended period fire covering large acreages and endangering high resource values.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)