

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Bruneau

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step W/L-t11 Step 3 D-2

W/L-3.3: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage 1,079,000 acres in the BPU as pronghorn habitat including those areas under Wilderness IMP classification and within IMP management guidelines to provide sufficient forage, water, cover, and space for 1,175 animals by 1990.

Specifically:

- (1) To provide sufficient forage for pronghorn antelope in the BPU, allocate forage by allotment and pasture as shown in Table 1, which reflects the AUM's that are competitive with livestock.
- (2) Refer to and address the "Guidelines for the Management of Pronghorn Antelope" when making management decisions which may affect antelope. Significant among these are:
 - a. If off-road vehicular traffic causes harrassment of wintering/spring pronghorn, restrict/close wintering area vehicular use to existing roads annually from approximately December 15 through March 1. Minimize off-road travel on antelope spring ranges from March 1 to June 15.
 - b. Maintain sufficient water in all artificial catchments, pipelines, troughs and spring developments to meet antelope needs from July 15 until October 31 of each year. Where it is necessary to shut down livestock water facilities prior to this date, provide big game guzzlers and/or other water storage/ supply facilities to meet antelope needs.
 - c. Provide additional watering catchments, guzzlers, etc. in allotments and pastures on warm season use areas (summer, fall) such that the distance between them throughout these areas is no more than three miles.
 - d. Large expanses of big sagebrush with a shrub canopy exceeding 30 percent and an average height exceeding 30 inches may be manipulated to improve the vegetative structure and forb composition for antelope. Prescribed

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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burning is the preferred method but improvements may be possible with mechanical or chemical treatment. Such manipulations will be limited to areas less than 1000 acres and will maintain five to 20 percent shrub canopy cover. Canopy cover should not be confused with hiding cover (reference W/L-3.1(4) mule deer).

Habitat manipulations may exceed 1,000 acres per project if, through the EA process, the particular project will not adversely impact pronghorns, and the design of the project is compatible with pronghorn needs.

e. All range revegetation projects proposed in antelope use areas, including fire rehabilitation, will include a variety of shrubs, forbs, and grasses.

- (3) Manage all pronghorn habitat for good ecological condition.
- (4) 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 and 3.2 and W/L-3.3, 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 1175 pronghorns by 1990.
- (2) Accept as written.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if any.
(Instructions on reverse)

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Step IW/L-511 Step 3 D-2

(3) Modify to read:

Manage habitat for good ecological condition where feasible/economical.

(4) Reject in preference to R-1.1(4) and change to:

Prescribed burning should be the primary tool for habitat improvement.

(5) The population goals of 1175 pronghorn by 1990 is subject to review and change in consultation with the Idaho Fish and Game goals.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

MAR 02 1982

Name (MFP)	Bruneau
Activity	Wildlife (4350)
Objective Number	#4

Objective #4:

Manage upland game and waterfowl habitats in the BPU to increase populations of the highly desired species.

Rationale:

The upland game resources of southwestern Idaho are famous throughout the United States. An estimated 70,600 hunter-days are expended pursuing pheasants, chukar, valley quail, mountain quail, hungarian partridge, sage grouse, mountain grouse, and cottontails each year in the BRA. The demand for this type of recreation is increasing steadily, especially in areas of rapid population growth.

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Step 1 W/L-5 Step 3

W/L-4.1: Multiple Use Recommendation:

Improve the distribution of chukar and hungarian partridge along the foothill areas south of the Snake River by providing more sources of water. The optimum spacing for water sources is one mile apart.

Analysis:

Presently chukar and hun hunting is quite popular in the BPU with over 24,000 hunter-days occurring annually. Demand for this type of recreation is expected to increase. Water developments such as gallinaceous guzzlers are an inexpensive and easy mechanism for increasing populations to help meet this projected demand.

Decision:

Accept as written.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Step 1W/L-t5 Step 3

W/L-4.2: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage public lands in the vicinity of irrigated agricultural areas to maintain or improve the habitat for pheasants, hungarian partridge, valley quail and cottontails. Specifically:

1(a). Retain the following tracts of public land as wildlife habitat. These tracts are known to have high wildlife values and should be managed for them:

T. 5 S., R. 3 E.	Section 32	NENE
T. 6 S., R. 3 E.	Section 5	NWSE, S ² NE, NESW
	Section 15	NWSE, SWSE
	Section 10	NESW, SWNE, SENW
	Section 22	SENE
T. 6 S., R. 5 E.	Section 26	SWNWNW, W ² E ² E ² NWNW, W ² E ² NWNW
	Section 33	NWSW
T. 7 S., R. 3 E.	Section 1	S ² NE
	Section 7	S ² SE, NESW
	Section 9	NWNW
T. 7 S., R. 4 E.	Section 1	NWSE
	Section 22	SESW
	Section 25	E ² SE, NWSE
	Section 26	SENE
T. 7 S., R. 5 E.	Section 1	Lot 1, SENW, NWSW
	Section 5	Lot 2, SWNE, SENW, NWSE
	Section 6	W ² SE
	Section 11	E ² NE, NESE
	Section 12	SWNW
T. 7 S., R. 6 E.	Section 8	S ² NW, N ² SW

1(b). Retain additional similar tracts within other land blocks under consideration for disposal if significant wildlife habitat values are

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Step 1 W/L-t5 Step 3

present or developable. Retain approximately 15% of the area to be managed for wildlife populations for proposed disposals larger than 160 acres. If necessary, improve the composition of shrubs, forbs and grasses to enhance food and cover for upland game. Permit other resource uses as long as they are consistent with wildlife management objectives. Retain public access to these tracts. Develop habitat management plans for intensive management of these tracts.

Analysis:

Intensive farming practices in use today reduce wildlife habitat values on much farmland during the winter. Unfarmed isolated tracts of public lands are "havens" for wildlife during this time. In many areas these parcels are essential to maintaining abundant upland game populations.

Decision:

Accept/modify/reject as follows:

Accept general as written:

1(a). Change the tracts to:

T. 5 S., R. 2 E.	Section 27	NESW
T. 6 S., R. 2 E.	Section 1	Lot 4, SWNW,
	Section 2	N ² SE, SWSE, SESW
	Section 11	NESE
	Section 13	SESE
T. 6 S., R. 3 E.	Section 5	S ² NE, NESW
	Section 5	SWSW
	Section 15	NWSE, SWSE
	Section 10	NESW

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T. 6 S., R. 3 E.	Section 22	SENE
	Section 27	NWNE
	Section 34	NWSW
	Section 35	SWNW, NWSW
	Section 6	SWNE
T. 6 S., R. 4 E.	Section 19	Lots 1&2, SESE
	Section 30	NENE
	Section 31	E ² SE
T. 6 S., R. 5 E.	Section 26	SWNWNW, W ² E ² E ² NWNW, W ² E ² NWNW
	Section 30	NESW
	Section 31	Lots 1 & 2
	Section 33	NWSW
	Section 35	S ² NW
T. 7 S., R. 2 E.	Section 13	SENE
	Section 13	SWNE
T. 7 S., R. 3 E.	Section 1	S ² NE
	Section 4	N ² NESE, NWSE
	Section 7	S ² SE
	Section 7	NESW
	Section 8	NENE
	Section 9	NWNW
	Section 18	Lot 1
T. 7 S., R. 4 E.	Section 1	NWSE
	Section 6	Lots 2, 3 & 4
	Section 7	NENE
	Section 8	NWNW, SESE, N ² SE
	Section 21	N ² NE, SWNE
	Section 22	SESW
	Section 25	E ² SW, SWSW
	Section 25	E ² SE, NWSE
	Section 26	SWNE
	Section 28	Lots 2 & 3

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Step 1W/L-15 Step 3

T. 7 S., R. 5 E. Section 1 Lot 1
Section 1 SENW
Section 1 NWSW
Section 4 SESW
Section 5 Lot 2, SENW
Section 6 W²SE
Section 9 NENW
Section 11 E²NE, NESE
Section 12 SWNW
Section 13 E²SE, SENE
Section 19 SENW, E²SW
Section 23 NESE, SENE
Section 24 NENE
Section 26 SWSE, SESW
Section 28 S²SE
Section 29 NESE, SENE
Section 33 NENE

T. 7 S., R. 6 E. Section 4 NESE
Section 7 SENE
Section 8 S²NW, N²SW
Section 14 NWNW
Section 15 NENE
Section 23 SWNW
Section 27 SESE, N²SE

1(b). Accept as written.

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Step 1 RM-6 Step 3

W/L-4.3: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage springs, seeps and meadows and adjacent upland areas as key wildlife habitats for upland game. Specifically:

- (1) Control livestock grazing on these habitats by the implementation of grazing systems, season of use and other management practices such as salting away from water sources.
- (2) If livestock overuse cannot be avoided, physically protect springheads and wet areas. Overlay #RM-6 shows several, but not all, springs which need physical protection.
- (3) Develop only those springs which are capable of providing adequate water for wildlife and livestock.

Analysis:

Water and diverse abundant plant cover are the real keys to upland game habitat and abundance. Unrestricted livestock access to springs, meadows, and seeps leads to the denuding of these areas resulting in their becoming valueless to wildlife. Management of these areas on a case by case basis will show that some seeps are unsuitable for development as stockwater sources and should therefore be fenced off. Structured grazing systems on upland game areas around such springs and seeps should be able to result in some cover improvement for wildlife.

Decision:

Accept as written. Also see RM-1.4.

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Step 1 W/L-10 Step 3 D-2

W/L-4.4: Multiple Use Recommendation

Manage 520,000 acres of sage grouse range in the BPU including those areas under Wilderness IMP classification and within IMP management guidelines to improve nesting, brood rearing and winter habitats. Specifically:

- (1) To improve the quality of sage grouse nesting and brood rearing habitats, all poor and fair big sagebrush, meadow, and riparian ecological sites should be improved and managed for good ecological condition, based on the SCS ecological site classification system.
- (2) When making management decisions affecting areas used by sage grouse in the BPU, refer to and address to the "Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range" as published by the Western States Sage Grouse Committee, June, 1974. Significant among these are:
 - a. Manage sage grouse habitat by maintaining the density of sagebrush canopy cover at 20-30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in present wintering habitats and in areas known to have supported wintering concentrations within the previous ten years. Canopy cover should not be confused with hiding cover (reference W/L-3.1(4) mule deer).
 - b. Designate sage grouse nesting and wintering habitat as "active" wildfire suppression areas wherein fire suppression activities are geared to fire behavior and the potential resource threat from any fire after it has been initially evaluated. If significant sage grouse cover is destroyed by any fire, sagebrush seed will be included in any mixture used in fire rehabilitation projects, seeded at a rate sufficient to reestablish suitable cover for sage grouse.
 - c. In brood rearing areas where the big sagebrush canopy cover is 20% or greater improve herbaceous vegetation by sagebrush manipulation and

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seeding of small irregular areas. These manipulations must not however, reduce the existing sagebrush canopy below 10%. Carefully evaluate the sage grouse response of these habitat manipulations before expanding the program to a large scale. Prescribed burning in most cases will be used for the cover alteration.

- d. No rehab projects will be implemented where live sagebrush crown cover is less than 20%, or on steep upper slopes (20% + gradient) where big sagebrush is 12 inches or less in height.
- e. Range vegetal control/rehab projects within two miles of known strutting grounds will be limited to practices which also enhance sage grouse habitat since this area constitutes the breeding complex for sage grouse.
- f. No vegetatal control using herbicides will be conducted along streams, meadows or secondary dry/intermittent drainages. A minimum of a 100 yard strip of living sage will be retained on each edge of meadows and drainages.
- g. Restrict during March-May any intensive disturbance activities such as gravel pit operation or ORV races within 2 miles of sage grouse strutting grounds and avoid the establishment of major roads within 1/2 mile.
- h. Restrict vehicular traffic to existing roads from November 1 to February 28 in sage grouse wintering habitats.
- i. Retain in public ownership all tracts of land on which strutting grounds are located and all lands within a two-mile radius of those strutting grounds, but allow exchanges if higher quality habitat can be acquired and such exchanges are in the public interest.
- j. Prescribed burning shall be the primary tool for habitat improvement.

Note. Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Analysis:

The Sage Grouse guidelines were developed by professionals from State and Federal Wildlife agencies throughout sage grouse ranges in the west. Because of the amount of habitat conversions occurring on native rangelands, grouse populations were being impacted dramatically. Game and Land managers needed a comprehensive framework within which management for other resources could be conducted while either minimizing damage to or actually improving sage grouse habitat, and the "Guidelines" resulted.

Sage grouse ranges must provide adequate forage and cover at all times of year, and ecological sites in good condition generally satisfy these requirements. The birds also need protection from ORV and other types of harassment at critical times of year such as during winter or breeding seasons, or they will abandon traditional use areas for unsuitable habitats and subsequent demise. Any disturbance in the breeding complex adversely affects reproduction. Riparian and meadow vegetation are important brooding areas if suitable adjacent protective cover is present. Without such cover, total habitat and thus the potential population is adversely affected. Wildfires also contribute to habitat loss.

Decision:

Accept as written.

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

W/L-4.5: Multiple Use Recommendation

Improve or maintain nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl adjacent to suitable streams and reservoirs within the BPU, including those areas under Wilderness IMP classification, within IMP management guidelines. Specifically:

- (1) Insure that waterfowl benefits are incorporated in all reservoir developments exceeding one surface-acre. Specifically, fence these areas, develop nest islands and/or structures, and pipe water away from the reservoir for livestock use. Implement livestock grazing systems and practices and/or improvements that will improve upland and riparian cover to form around all potential and existing waterfowl nesting areas. On key reservoirs, streams and canals that have been heavily disturbed and where there is a lack of vegetation, protect and re-establish vegetation such as bul-rush and pondweed, and an upland mix of grasses, forbs and shrubs that provides good waterfowl nesting cover and food. In some instances, and on a case by case basis, it may be desirable to introduce native aquatic and terrestrial plants in an effort to accelerate succession toward quality waterfowl habitat.
- (2) Construct nesting platforms for canada geese along the Snake River and on major reservoir sites to increase nesting opportunities and improve nest security. The following reservoirs are suitable for such structures: Buck Horse, Bybee, Grasmere, Surprise, Big Blue Creek, Battle Creek #9, Juniper Lake and Ross Lake.

Analysis:

Reservoirs exceeding one surface-acre offer excellent waterfowl nesting and brood habitat provided certain characteristics exist. The value of dense vegetation adjacent to aquatic habitats has been pointed out in the URA, as has the conflict with livestock overutilization (resulting in a much reduced vegetative cover) in these areas. Fencing areas and piping water to alternate sites for

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livestock use will alleviate this problem. In some cases construction of islands may be accomplished with a minimum of additional cost. These islands provide high security nesting habitat for many species of waterfowl (including Canada geese).

Decision:

Accept with the following addition:

On those reservoirs exceeding one surface-acre fence and pipe water if technically/economically feasible. Reservoirs may be gap fenced for access without piping.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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