

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

MAR 10 1982

Name (MPP)	Kuna
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Objective Number	#1

Objective #1:

Improve fisheries physical habitat to fair and good condition by 1989 in 18 stream miles that are in poor or fair condition (see Table 13 and good habitat condition standard below). Improve water quality in stream sites to chemical constituent levels that are within proper tolerance levels for trout (see Appendix 2). Special priority should be given to improve habitat of the red-band trout, a sensitive species.

Fair to good habitat condition standards for fisheries are as follows:

- 1) High streambank cover should provide 60 to 80 percent shading to a stream.
- 2) Low streambank vegetative cover should be mostly over 4 inches in height; sod should be intact with less than 10% bare soil with broken sod.
- 3) No more than 10 percent of the streambanks in any stream reach should be actively eroding.
- 4) No more than 5 percent lateral channel movement in any stream reach. There should also be minor channel scouring or changing channels within the streambed (unless a natural condition).
- 5) No more than 10-15 percent of the stream channel bottom should be covered by fine sediments.
- 6) Between 25 to 50 percent of the stream channel should contain in-stream fish cover which would include deep pools, undercut banks, boulders, debris, over-hanging vegetation, velocity breaks or turbulence.

Rationale:

Riparian habitat improvement would enhance fishery production and water quality in the KPU. Red-band trout and rainbow trout are two of the major species benefited by the proposed habitat improvement. Increasing the supply of trout will improve the trout fishery in the planning unit. The red-band trout is listed as a sensitive species by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and BLM (1977) and is also designated of special concern by the American Fisheries Society (1979). BLM Manual 6840-6 policy states that crucial habitats of sensitive species will be managed and/or conserved to minimize the need for future listing of those species on federal and state lists. This includes the objective of maintaining or increasing current population levels of sensitive species through early habitat protection or enhancement (6840.31).

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Name (MFPP)	Kuna
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference	Step 5A-9-8 Step 1 D-3

W/L-aq.-t.t: Multiple Use Recommendation

Improve on-site fisheries habitat from poor to fair and good condition on 13 public stream miles. The areas specifically listed are designated as high priority fisheries habitat. Exclusion of livestock grazing is in all probability the only method of bringing the habitat to an upward trend and fair to good condition. Although this could be accomplished by gap fencing the placement will be evaluated on a case by case basis using an interdisciplinary approach. Livestock may be reintroduced as long as habitat conditions are maintained to an upward trend and fair to good condition. Initially, the following streams need improvement through fencing practices:

Stream	T	R	Location	Public Stream Miles
			Sec	
Cottonwood Creek	IS	7E	8, 9	1.49
Crown Creek	IS	6E	2, 11, 14	3.25
Syrup Creek	IS	6E	13	
Syrup Creek	IS	7E	7, 8, 9, 18	2.63
Long Tom Creek	IS	7E	31, 32	
Long Tom Creek	2S	7E	2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10	5.75
				13.12

Analysis:

Livestock grazing is one of the major conflicts to fisheries in streams. Loss of riparian habitat adversely effects habitat factors such as channel bottoms from excessive fine sediments, channel movement, and increased water temperatures.

Decision:

Modify to read as follows:

Upgrading fisheries habitat condition for red band trout and riparian associated wildlife will be the primary management objective on these stream miles. The specific management proposal to meet the 1990 land use plan objectives will be determined as allotment management plans or wildlife habitat management plans

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION W/L-aq-1.1

Name (MFP)	Kuna
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-aq-Step 1 D-3

are developed. The following management practices could be initiated on these stream miles in order to ensure their improvement:

- 1) Grazing exclusion,
- 2) rest rotation or deferred rotation grazing systems,
- 3) limited season-of-use
- 4) placement of juniper trees along stream banks to increase cover and reduce livestock trampling,
- 5) salting livestock away from riparian areas, and
- 6) increased water development away from riparian zones.

It is anticipated that grazing exclusion is the only practical method to accomplish riparian habitat improvement on these streams. This could be accomplished primarily through gap fencing of livestock access points.

If intensive livestock management practices are implemented as the primary method to improve fisheries habitat condition resource response would be carefully monitored. If habitat condition objectives are not being met, livestock would be excluded. Where grazing is excluded livestock use could be reintroduced after the time period required to bring habitat conditions to an upward trend and fair to good condition. Livestock use could then continue as long as these conditions were maintained.

Reasons:

The multiple use recommendation has been reworded for clarity. This wording corresponds with the wording used in the Brunceau-Kuna Grazing EIS Proposed Action.

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W/L-aq.1.2: Multiple Use Recommendation

Name (NFP)
Kuna
Activity
<u>Wildlife-aquatics</u>
Overlay Reference
Step W/L-aq-B Step J D-3

Improve fisheries habitat condition from poor and fair to a good condition through intensive livestock management on riparian areas of 5.5 stream miles on public lands. Intensive livestock management should be applied with goals directed at insuring that riparian areas receive only light to moderate livestock use to attain good habitat condition standards.

Intensive livestock management of riparian areas to minimize damage to the fisheries resource should contain combinations of (but not limited to) the following practices:

- (1) Change the present grazing systems in riparian areas to rest rotation, deferred grazing, or exclusion to allow management of these pastures with emphasis on attaining good habitat condition for fisheries.
- (2) Reduce livestock stocking rates in riparian pastures.
- (3) Limit the season of use to accommodate vegetative regrowth.
- (4) Re-distribute cattle away from riparian areas through the use of raised juniper structures placed perpendicular to the stream, and require the placement of salt away from riparian areas through license stipulations.
- (5) Increase water developments away from streams.

Intensive livestock management should be applied on a priority need basis in riparian areas. Initial streams which can be improved through intensive livestock management include:

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Name (MFP)	
Kuna	
Activity	
Milfife-aquatic	
Overlay Reference	
Step M/L-aq-3 Step 3	

Stream	T	R	Location Sec	Public Stream Miles
Bennett Creek	3S	SE	12, 13, 24, 25	2.50
Pole Creek	2S	7S	1	1.20
Rattlesnake Creek	2S	8S	31	
Rattlesnake Creek	3S	7S	9, 10	1.82
				5.52

Analysis:

Livestock grazing is one of the major conflicts to fisheries in KPU streams. Loss of riparian vegetation adversely affects many of the other habitat factors which provide good overall production and stability in a stream. Fisheries habitat condition of streams listed in this recommendation range from poor to fair. It has been identified that generally riparian areas receive very concentrated livestock use. Because of the geology and past history of use of the areas, it is felt that livestock use can be controlled by intensive management practices and fencing is not required at this time.

Decision:

Accept as written (also see M/L-aq.-1.1).

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W/L-aq.-1.3: Multiple Use Recommendation

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Name (MFPI)
Kuna
Activity
Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL-aq-8 Step 3 D-3

Work with Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Department of Water Resources to establish a conservation pool in the following reservoirs:

Reservoir	T.	R.	Location Section	Acres Benefited	Fish Benefitted
Mountain Home Res.	3S	7E	8,17,18,19,20	376	Rainbow trout
Indian Creek Res.	1N	4E	29, 30	100	Crappy, Bass, Bullhead
Blacks Creek Res.	1N	3E	31	70	Crappy, Bass, Perch

Analysis:

Annual drainage of reservoirs for irrigation limits the size potential of catchable fish, and also limits spring spawning in reservoirs and streams feeding these reservoirs. Hold over capabilities would provide habitat to develop large size fish and would improve opportunities for spring spawning (hatchery rainbows are fall spawners but after planting will revert back to spring spawning).

Decision:

Accept as written.

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 W/L-aq.-1.4: Multiple Use Recommendation

Name (NIP)	Kuna
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference	Step 1WL-aq-8Step 3 D-3

Improve fisheries habitat on 5.3 public stream miles by increasing in-stream cover by at least 50% in the streams listed below. In-stream cover can be increased through the addition of juniper trees along cut banks, placement of large boulders and/or debris jams, and excavation to create pools in stream segments where instream cover is not adequate.

Stream	T. R. Section	Location	Miles of Improvements
Crown Creek	1S 6E	2, 11, 14	3.00
Syrup Creek	1S 6E	13	
Syrup Creek	1S 7E	7, 8, 18	2.30

Analysis:

Stream segments impacted by concentrated livestock use and in combination with natural erosive soil conditions contribute excessive silt loads downstream, and experience vegetative cover loss. Large amounts of silt fill and remain in downstream pool areas where current flows are reduced.

Although fencing and increased livestock management projects will result in improvement of in-stream cover of streams, additional rehabilitation is necessary in stream segments to restore good fishery habitat condition. With improvement of in-stream cover, overall increases in productivity of trout in these streams can be expected as adequate in-stream cover is identified as an important habitat requirements for fish (URA-3).

Decision:

Accept with following addition:

All activities coordinated and in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

F-150-40-21 (April 1983)

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Name (MFP)
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Activity
Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference
Step 4M-aq-B Step 3 D-3

W/L-aq.-1.5: Multiple Use Recommendation

- (1) Improve fisheries habitat on 3.95 stream miles and 158 reservoir acres through cooperative management programs with the private landowners on the following streams and reservoir:

Stream/Reservoir	Location			Miles	Acres
	T.	R.	Section		
W. Fk. Long Tom Creek	1S	7E	24		
W. Fk. Long Tom Creek	1S	8E	19, 30	3.2	800
Bennett Creek	2S	8E	21	0.75	280
Long Tom Reservoir	1S	7E	35, 36		160

- (2) If private lands become available through exchange support public acquisition.

Analysis:

Private stream segments impacted by concentrated livestock use and/or in combination with natural erosive soil conditions contribute excessive silt loads downstream on public lands. Cooperative programs are necessary to restore good fishery habitat condition on contiguous stream segments of private/public lands. With improvement of in-stream cover, overall reduction in siltation will occur and increases in productivity of trout in these and adjoining stream segments can be expected.

Cooperative programs on private lands within and adjoining Long Tom Reservoir will increase management options such as boat access and improved fishing opportunities. Additional benefits would accrue if a conservation pool is established.

If cooperative programs are not achieved and the private lands become available through exchange support the public acquisition of these lands (1,240 acres).

Decision:

Accept as written.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse

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W/L-aq.-1.6: Multiple Use Recommendation

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Name (NPP)	Kuna
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 2 D-3

Designate watershed areas which drain into major or perennial streams as special management areas to be managed for watershed stabilization. Steep sloped watershed areas which are $\geq 25\%$ in granite areas and $\geq 35\%$ in volcanic areas should be stabilized by minimizing gully and sheet erosion through providing adequate vegetative cover on slopes. Livestock use of these watershed areas should be adjusted in areas of high erosion susceptibility to reduce soil movement to natural runoff amounts. Any other activities which would reduce vegetative cover on these watershed areas should be removed or minimized.

Priority areas include the headwaters of the following streams:

Streams	Location
Pole Creek	Headwaters
Syrup Creek	Headwaters
Crown Creek	Main Branch
Long Tom Creek	Main Branch

Analysis:

Evidence of gully and overland erosion is present in the KPU. Siltation has been identified as a present major conflict to fisheries (URA 3). Stabilizing the watershed areas above perennial and feeder streams would reduce the amount of silt entering these systems and improve fisheries habitat in conjunction with other riparian vegetative improvements.

Decision:

Accept as written.

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Name (MFP)	
Kuna	
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics
Objective Number	#2

Objective #2:

Protect and manage seasonal flows in perennial and intermittent streams to maintain aquatic/riparian habitat condition on 5 stream miles in good condition. Priority consideration should be given to habitat maintenance for red-band trout.

Rationale:

Reproduction and survival of aquatic flora and fauna is directly associated with differing levels of stream flows. Aquatic and stream side vegetation, invertebrates, and fish all respond to changes in the amount of flow, velocity, and water quality. Aquatic organisms require adequate seasonal flows that maintain proper depth and velocity components necessary to provide food producing and reproduction sites. Adequate flow amounts are those that will maintain the habitat (including reproduction and food production) necessary for the sustenance of the fish species present (in this case the red-band trout).

This objective is in compliance with the BLM and the Idaho Department of Water Resource Memorandum of Understanding (ID-79-141), the agreement between EPA and BLM of 1976, the agreement for the protection of water and air resources between BLM and the State Department of Health and Welfare, Executive Orders 12088, 11514, 11990, 11987, 11988 and 11644, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970, Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966, Water Quality Act of 1965, Water Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, the Federal Pollution Control Act of 1965 and 1972, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1953, Sikes Act of 1974, and the National Environmental Policy and Management Act of 1969.

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Name (SPP)	
Land	
Activity	
Wildlife-aquatic Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

MLR-aq-2.1: Multiple Use Recommendation

Maintain minimum in-stream flows at least as high as the normal mid-summer levels necessary to provide the habitat needs of existing fish populations. Provide flow recommendations (amounts) as information becomes available (in-stream flow contract with IDFG and BLM stream surveys). Manage flows for good water quality.

Support acquisition of water rights by the Department of Water Resources for minimum flows through the State Department of Fish and Game for maintaining red-band trout. Work closely with land owners, lessees, and state agencies to maintain minimum flows in areas where agricultural water diversions occur.

The following potential flows are recommended as target streams for flow measurement:

Streams
Bennett Creek
Long Tom Creek
W. Pk. Long Tom Creek
Pale Creek
Rattlesnake Creek
Syrup Creek

Analysis:

Idaho Senate Bill 1622 allows the Water Resources Board to establish in-stream flow rights to protect important uses such as fisheries, wildlife and recreation.

Water depth and streamflow amounts are critical elements to a productive fisheries habitat in perennial streams. Maintaining minimum in-stream flow amounts and good water quality is essential to providing suitable combinations of physical and chemical elements to ensure present population levels for red-band trout and other fish in the planning unit.

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Name (MFP)		
Kuna		
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics	
Overlay Reference	Step 1	Step 3

Decision:

Modify to read:

Work with and provide flow recommendations to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, as information becomes available. Manage flows for a good water quality.

Reason:

By statute the State of Idaho controls water rights and minimum flows, also the Fish and Game controls the fish. Therefore the Bureau should only be in a support/recommendation role. However, we should not cause any action to reduce legally established minimum flows or quality degradation.

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Name (MFP)		
Kuna		
Activity	Wildlife-aquatics	
Overlay Reference		
Step I	Step J	

W/L-aq.-2.2: Multiple Use Recommendation

Maintain present red-band trout populations by encouraging federal and state agencies to maintain the policy of excluding introduction of other fish species into red-band trout drainages and by discouraging fish eradication through chemical treatment where red-band trout populations are present in streams. Install fish barriers on reservoirs planted to hatchery rainbow trout.

Rationale:

It is not presently known how much other fish species (including other trout) would be serious competitors with red-band trout for food and space besides being predacious on red-band trout. It also is not known to what extent other trout species would hybridize with red-band trout. If hybridization were to occur, the gene pool of red-band trout could be lost, thus the species. Fish eradication programs using chemicals can also have detrimental affects on the stream biological community upsetting habitat factors which red-band trout require. Also, elimination of red-band trout could occur through accidents associated with chemical eradication programs.

Decision:

Modify to read:

Work with and make recommendations to Idaho Department of Fish and Game on introduction of other fish and/or eradication programs which might effect red-band trout populations on federal land.

Reason:

By statute the State of Idaho has control of fish and as such should be the controlling factor. However, we should provide information and make recommendations because red-bands are a sensitive species.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed.

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Name (MFP)	Kuna
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Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

W/L-aq.-2.3: Multiple Use Recommendation

Retain federal ownership of riparian areas in red-band trout habitat (36 stream miles). Provide opportunities for land exchanges where valuable riparian habitat can be blocked up for consistent management. Establish a cooperative management program with the State Department of Lands, Department of Fish and Game, and leasee on those state lands to provide maintenance of the following contiguous units of riparian habitat:

Stream	Location			Acres
	T.	R.	Sec.	
Bennett Creek	2S	8E	16	640
Long Tom Creek	1S	7E	36	520
Cottonwood Creek	1S	7E	16	640

Analysis:

Cooperative programs on non-federal riparian lands would allow for more effective management of streams for red-band trout. Drainages should be managed as integrated units since stream ecosystems are continuous. The above recommendation would allow for management of drainages as integrated units, instrumental in accomplishing overall fisheries management objectives 1-3. If cooperative programs are not achieved and these state lands become available through exchange support the public acquisition of these lands (1,800 acres).

Decision:

Accept as written.