

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

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WEST BLISS ALLOTMENT (0403)

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1 & 2.2

Remove brush and seed approximately 1800 acres of National Resource Land to establish desirable perennial forage species.

This treatment combined with management, is needed to meet the objectives within a reasonable time-frame of 10-15 years. Approximately 145 additional AUMs will be produced annually from the treatment.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would result in an increase in forage production. Thus a positive economic impact would occur. Where wildlife values are involved the Idaho Fish & Game Dept. will be consulted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between that agency and the Bureau.

This recommendation is in conflict with the Recreation, R 4.1, 4.2, 4.15 and Minerals 1.2 which would restrict or constrain layout and/or method of land treatment. The recreation recommendations deal primarily with visual impact of land treatments and the effect the recommended treatments might have on archaeological sites. The minerals conflict involves the restriction on land treatments should development of potential geothermal resources take place.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: WL 9.2, 11.1; L 1.1c; R 2.1. These conflicting proposals will be addressed prior to implementation of land treatments to insure resource values involved are adequately considered.

Supporting activity recommendations include the following: WL 12.2; W 1.4, 1.5; R 3.2.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Accept and modify the recommendation to subject brush removal and seeding proposals to the following constraints before projects are started.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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1. Implement an allotment management plan with a sound and acceptable grazing system.

Sound management is needed to assure success of revegetation projects and to protect the investment made in the project.

Disruption of livestock use can be minimized by planning treatments within grazing pastures and in accord with the grazing sequence.

BLM Policy

2. Coordinate all land treatment proposals with wildlife, watershed, and recreation activities to assure all multiple-use conflicts are mitigated. Criteria to be used in mitigating conflicts are found in Appendix I (MFP Step II).

On-site information is not adequate to identify specific conflicts and resulting impacts at this time. This requires that no projects be started until on-site inspections can be made and impacts of the project on the multiple-use values are determined and mitigated.

Projects which alter the vegetation have long-term impacts and must be coordinated so as not to destroy other resource values.

3. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.

Present information is insufficient to determine impacts of geothermal development on land treatment. Any mineral development at this time appears to be improbable.

4. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.

Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

WEST BLISS

Alternatives
Authorizations Considered

1. Forage inventory.
- 2.
3. ~~Consider~~ division for individual allotments - east of ~~freeway~~ *old highway.*

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

TICESKA ALLOTMENT (0404)

B.H.

Name (MFP)

Bennett Hills-Timmerman

Activity Hills

Range Management

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1. & 2.1

Revise the present AMP as follows:

1. Adjust the grazing system to one that will provide for plant vigor, seed production, seed tromp, and seedling establishment of the key native forage species. (See URA Step 4 for minimum grazing treatment opportunity.)

The present grazing system is not designed to propagate or provide for the physiological need of the key native forage plant. A grazing system which provides for these treatments will increase the density and vigor of the native forage species, and improve range conditions and increase forage production of maximum potential. Approximately 6/ additional AUMs can be produced annually within a 15- 20 year period with proper management.

2. Adjust license flexibility to meet manual requirements and specify as a minimum the normal operation, maximum numbers allowed to graze, and season of use flexibility not to exceed five days before and after the normal operation dates.

Flexibility allowed in the present AMP is not in accord with manual requirements, and BLM policy.

Multiple-Use Analysis

Revision of the present AMP, as recommended, would result in adjustment of spring use allowed from 100 percent of the qualified demand to 50 percent of the qualified demand. This could result in an adjustment of livestock numbers and would, therefore probably result in an adverse economic impact to the allottees. In addition, less flexibility in the grazing license could also occur which could restrict the grazing operation. A long-term beneficial input would occur because the recommendations favor increased production of perennial grasses which will stabilize forage production.

Wildlife, WL 12.1, and Watershed, W 1.3 identify the need to retain 40- 50 percent of the herbaceous vegetation. This conflicts with the recommendation because utilization in the heavy use pastures of the grazing system would likely be greater than 60 percent. Wildlife, WL 9.1 identifies the need to exclude livestock grazing from waterfowl nesting areas. This would reduce availability of high quality forage and restrict access to water, which would contribute to the livestock distribution problems. Lands, L 3.1A proposes disposal of Class I and II lands found to be consistent with classification criteria. Such an action would result in loss of the most productive area in the allotment, and could disrupt the proposed grazing system. Minerals, M 1.2 proposes leasing, with minimal restrictions, the geothermal resource. This could restrict livestock grazing because development would prohibit use of up

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed to 1/3 of the land surface under lease.

(Instructions on reverse)

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Multiple-Use Analysis (cont)

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: WL 8.1; R 2.1; and L 6.2, 6.4. These conflicting proposals should be addressed at the time the existing Clover Creek AMP is revised to insure all resource values are given proper consideration.

Supporting recommendations include the following: WL 9.2, 12.2; W 1.2; R. 2.1.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

Modify the recommendation to include the following provisions in addition to those stated above:

1. Do not exceed 60 percent utilization of herbaceous vegetation in any pasture where grazing occurs.

Adequate herbaceous vegetation should be left to provide adequate forage and cover for all wildlife, including deer, elk, and upland game birds, and to provide litter to protect the soil from the erosive forces of nature.

It is not anticipated that this restriction will seriously impact grazing since livestock gains normally begin to decline after 60 percent of the forage has been utilized.

2. Fence canals where major critical waterfowl nesting areas are identified. Provide water gaps no farther than 1/2 mile apart.

Grazing livestock utilize and destroy riparian vegetation needed for waterfowl nesting habitat.

3. Allow disposal of lands within Class I and II irrigation potential classification.

Livestock grazing is the primary resource affected with all other resources affected to a minor degree. Conversion of this area to agriculture would provide greater economic stability to the locale than presently produced by the existing resource use.

4. Allow mineral leasing.

Restriction of livestock grazing by geothermal development is improbable, but if it occurs it should be allowed because of the greater value generated to the local and regional economy by mineral development.

Support Needs: Accept the recommendation as stated above.
Acquire easement on private land.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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TICESKA ALLOTMENT (0404)

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1. & 2.2

Remove brush and seed 575 acres to crested wheatgrass.

These treatments, combined with management, are needed to meet the objectives within a reasonable timeframe of 10- 15 years. Approximately 67 ~~50~~ additional AUMs will be produced annually from the treatment. The treatment will help to equalize perennial forage production in pasture which will facilitate AMP. It will also help mitigate the effect of fire since the perennial plant is not destroyed by fire and grazing can resume the following year.

This is high fire occurrence area because of the railroad and the Ticeska railroad grade.

Multiple-Use Analysis

The recommendation would result in an increase in forage production. Thus a positive economic impact would occur. Where wildlife values are involved the Idaho Fish & game Dept. will be consulted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between that agency and the Bureau.

This recommendation is in conflict with wildlife, WL 11.1; recreation, R 4.2, 14.15; and minerals, M 1.2 which would restrict or constrain layout and/or method of land treatment. The wildlife recommendation proposes managing for birds-of-prey which involves maintaining certain densities of sagebrush; therefore this recommendation conflicts with brush removal proposals. The recreation recommendations deal primarily with visual impact of land treatments and the effect the recommended treatment might have on archaeological sites. The minerals conflict involves the restriction on land treatments should developing of potential geothermal resources take place.

The recommendation conflicts with lands, L 3.1A which would prohibit any land treatment. The lands recommendation proposes disposal of some lands which have been identified for land treatment.

The recommendation conflicts to a minor degree with the following activity recommendations: WL 9.2; L 6.2, 6.4; R 2.1. These conflicting proposals will be addressed prior to implementation of land treatments to insure resource values involved are adequately considered.

Supporting activity recommendations include the following: WL 12.2; W 1.4, 1.5, 5.2; R 2.1.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

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Accept and modify the recommendation to subject brush removal and seeding proposals to the following constraints before projects are started.

1. Revise the allotment management plan and implement a sound and acceptable grazing system.

Sound management is needed to assure success of revegetation projects and to protect the investment made in the project.

Disruption of livestock use can be minimized by planning treatments within grazing pastures and in accord with the grazing sequence.

This is BLM policy.

2. Coordinate all land treatment proposals with wildlife, watershed, and recreation activities to assure all multiple-use conflicts are mitigated. Criteria to be used in mitigating conflicts are found in Appendix I (MFP Step II).

On-site information is not adequate to identify specific conflicts and resulting impacts at this time. This requires that no projects be started until on-site inspections can be made and impacts of the project on the multiple-use values are determined and mitigated.

Projects which alter the vegetation have long-term impacts and must be coordinated so as not to destroy other resource values.

3. Propose no land treatments on lands that have Class I and II irrigation potential pending outcome of classification.

Range improvement investment should not be made on lands that may be disposed of for agricultural purposes.

4. Allow leasing of minerals (geothermal resources) with no constraints on land treatment projects.

Present information is insufficient to determine impacts of geothermal development on land treatment. Any mineral development at this time appears to be improbable.

5. Prohibit land treatment projects on known archaeological sites.

Bureau policy requires protection of cultural resources.

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BH

TICESKA ALLOTMENT

Alternatives Considered

combination
Allotment ~~continuation~~

Forage survey