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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Objective Number

W-1

Objective:

Protect areas susceptible to accelerated erosion.

Rationale:

The slopes of the buttes in the planning unit are sites of active geologic erosion. This is especially true of slopes steeper than 30 percent. The soils usually found on these slopes are thin and extremely fragile. Once the vegetative cover is destroyed it is very difficult or impossible to reestablish.

Areas where sandy soils occur are particularly susceptible to geologic erosion by wind. Vegetative cover must be maintained if soil loss is to be kept at a reasonable level (less than 5 tons/acre/year).

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 W-1.2 Step 3 ^W 1.1 |

Recommendation:

Minimize natural wind erosion potential of soil association 8 by reducing grazing use if necessary. Also quickly suppress any fire threat to the area as well as limit ORV use or any other vegetative disturbance that would reduce vegetative cover. See MFP I Watershed Overlay.

Rationale:

Sandy soils are most susceptible to wind erosion. The soils in soil association 8 are sandy and have the greatest susceptibility to wind erosion in the Big Desert. Some isolated tracts of land west of Springfield and Aberdeen are also susceptible to wind erosion. Good vegetative cover should be maintained on all sandy loam soils.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Range management 1.1A and Wildlife 1.3, 2.1, 4.4 proposes vegetative treatments in this area creating a conflict. Recreation 5.2 supports this recommendation limit ORV use in soil association 8 to existing roads and trails.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Soil is the basic resource. Vegetative cover is essential to protecting fragile soils.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept the Multiple Use recommendation.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1WSW1.1 Step 3 WSW 1.1

Recommendation:

(Reference wildlife WLA 1.1) control erosion at the following locations.
(See wildlife inventory files).

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 33-25 (10) 1 | 33-25 (8) | 33-25 (4) | 33-25 (6) 2 |
| 33-25 (10) 2 | 33-25 (7) | 33-25 (6) | 33-24 (3) 18 |

Rationale:

Sediment is a leading contributor to water degradation, damaging aquatic life and water supply systems (both domestic and agricultural). Section 208 to the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500) specifically requires such erosion control from "non-point" sources. Control measures include such items as rip-rap, vegetation manipulation, and retention structures.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject Step I recommendation.

Reasons:

There is little or no streamside grazing damage along the Snake River. The entire area is in good ecological condition. (SVIM inventory rating.) The stream bank has a vertical drop of 3-5 feet depending on water level. Livestock access to the river is limited to gravel bars.

Streamside erosion is due to the Snake River flow during high water and is constantly changing. Structural control would be cost prohibitive and may cause other problem areas downstream. Rip-rap and retention structure are not practical due to the wide fluctuations of flow rates from 2500 and 25,000 CFS. See wildlife WLA 4.2.

Alternatives Considered:

Implement structures to control erosion.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

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| Name (MFP) |
| Big Desert |
| Activity |
| Watershed |
| Objective Number |
| W-2 |

Objective:

Restore and maintain vegetation cover in the stock trail drive area west of Springfield to protect or enhance the productive capability of the soil resource.

Rationale:

Seventy thousand sheep graze the area during trailing in the spring and fall. Most of the area has little ground cover and erosion, wind and water is a problem to local people in the area. This area also contributes to flooding in the Aberdeen area. People of this area registered their concern about the flooding at a public meeting (April 4, 1980).

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W 2.1 Step 3 W 2.1

Recommendation:

Revoke livestock driveway withdrawal and include area in an AMP.

Rationale:

The present deterioration of vegetation in the stock trail drive area is recognized by local people and BLM. The invasion of halogeton, a plant toxic to livestock, is so bad that many ranchers are already trucking their livestock to the field. Hundreds of acres of unproductive rangeland could be rehabilitated by changing the management on this area. Reestablishment of plant cover by seeding, deferment and a rest rotation grazing system will reduce the water and wind erosion. An additional benefit would be a reduction in some of the present water runoff to the Aberdeen area.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Range 1.2 E supports rehabilitation of stock driveway by reseeding and proper management.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify W 2.1 as follows:

Continue use of the stock driveway. (See RM 1.2 concerning AMP development for this allotment). See RM 1.2 E - 4f and 4g which call for re-seeding of the stock driveway also road construction to establish an alternate route for trailing livestock.

Reasons:

The stock driveway is essential to sheep ranchers. Sheep would need to cross the area whether or not a withdrawal existed. Past abuse has caused halogeton and other annual species invasion. These species thrive in disturbed areas. Rehabilitation and proper management are essential to their control. Ranchers have always used a combination of trucking and trailing of their sheep in this area. Runoff to the Aberdeen area occurs when the ground is frozen and a heavy snow pack is rapidly melted by chinook winds. Man has no control over this.

Multiple Use Decision

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert (4/80) Jeppesen

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Objective Number

WSW-2

Objective

Stabilize soil movement in the Big Desert Planning Unit.

Rationale

Wind blown dust and surface water movement of soil can contribute large quantities of silt to waterways with resultant sedimentation (Section 208 PL 92-500).

Big Desert Watershed (5/80) Farringer

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-20 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WSW 2.1 Step 3 WSW 2.1

Recommendation:

Stabilize erosion areas, within watersheds, with native vegetation.

Rationale:

Artificial control measures are usually only partially effective. The long-term remedy of seeding with native vegetation is also beneficial to livestock and wildlife, providing a long-term food source and cover.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept with modification - use vegetation that will be most successful in soil stabilization. This would be either native or exotic species.

Reasons:

Species other than native may be more effective in achieving the goals.

Alternatives Considered:

Reject recommendation. *oops/f*

Use only natural, endemic or native species.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 W-2.2 Step 3 W 2.2 |

Recommendation:

Reseed area shown as W-2.2 where fair or good soil seeding potential exists. Defer the area from livestock grazing for a minimum of 3 years.

Rationale:

Reseeding this area will result in a more rapid recovery of the vegetative cover. This area has been in poor condition a long time. Cover is essential to prevent soil movement by wind in this area. Deferment from grazing is also essential to allow new vegetation to become established. This area was identified by Aberdeen residents as a local source of wind erosion.

Multiple Use Analysis:

A portion of this area, approximately 2,500 acres, conflicts with Wildlife 4.2 which says maintain existing vegetation. The remainder of the area is supported by both 1.2E, and Wildlife 4.3 which says to increase shrub cover.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

Proceed with reseeding outside of area covered by WL 4.2. Resolve treatment method on the ground between range, watershed and wildlife. Defer from grazing long enough to establish the seeding. Minimum time is usually at least two growing seasons.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | |
| Watershed | |
| Overlay Reference | |
| Step 1 WSW 2.2 | Step 3 WSW 2.2 |

Recommendation:

Remove all livestock from areas adjoining the Snake River except at the following locations (see wildlife inventory files).

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|--------------------|
| <i>Gunnarson</i> - 33-24 (3) | 10 | 33-24 (3) | 2 | 33-25 (5) | 1 | 33-24 (3) | |
| 33-24 (3) | 12 | 33-25 (10) | | 33-24 (3) | 17 | 33-24 (3) | 6 - <i>Follmer</i> |
| 34-1A-24 | | 33-25 (10) | 3 | 33-24 (1) | | 33-24 (3) | 7 - <i>Johnson</i> |
| 33-24 (3) | 14 | 33-25 (9) | | 33-24 (2) | | 33-24 (3) | 8 - <i>Johnson</i> |

Rationale:

Most areas, except those listed, have severe erosion problem that do not lend themselves to mechanical means of stabilization. Removal of livestock from these areas for an indefinite period of time and planting of species such as willow, would have a definite beneficial impact.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with RM 3.1 which authorizes livestock use of the omitted lands. Supported by VRM 2.1 which says to eliminate streamside and backwater damage by livestock.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject Step I recommendation.

Defer islands from livestock use until after high water flow to prevent entrapment and excessive use.

Reasons:

There is little or no streamside grazing damage along the Snake River. The stream bank has a vertical drop of three to five feet depending on water level and livestock access to the river is limited to gravel bars. Streamside erosion is due to the Snake River high water flow ~~and~~ in the spring and is constantly changing. Livestock adjustments have been made both in length of season and turn-out dates.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Objective Number

W-3

Objective:

Alleviate flood and sediment damage of other lands in the Twin Buttes and Flat Top watersheds.

Rationale:

A portion of the flood waters come from the public lands in the watersheds.

We are required by law to do everything we can alleviate flood and sediment damage to other lands. (Public Law 94-519 and Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management.)

Big Desert (4/80) D. Jeppesen

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| Name (MFP) |
| Big Desert |
| Activity |
| Watershed |
| Overlay Reference |
| Step 1 W 3.1 Step 3 W 3.1 |

Recommendation:

Require the isolated tract lands be included in a soil and water conservation plan prior to issuance of a grazing lease or inclusion in other public uses, i.e. recreation, material sites, etc.

Rationale:

Often tracts of public land are adversely affected by land use on adjacent state and privately owned lands. The Twin Buttes and Flattop watersheds are areas of major concern. Both of these watersheds have a history of spring flooding which often results in flood damage to local farm land and communities. Public land in the area consists primarily of isolated tracts. Excessive livestock use has resulted in deteriorated range condition on the entire area. The area now has serious erosion problems and contributes to the flood problem. It becomes evident that only action on all lands will eventually lead to a solution. Working with the local community groups, such as Soil Conservation District, may be the only practical means to achieve sound soil and water conservation.

This could be accomplished easily by the Bureau requiring or encouraging operators using isolated tracts of public land to obtain a Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plans are available from local conservation districts of no charge to the landowner. These plans should also be approved by the Bureau before implementation where they involve public land.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify to allow for either of the following on isolated tracts within Twin Buttes and Flattop watersheds.

1. Develop AMP with goals and objectives emphasizing soil and water conservation.
2. Include isolated tracts in soil and watershed conservation plans.

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| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 W-3.1 Step 3 W 3.1 |

Reasons:

If watershed problems exist either of the above activity plans should be developed to solve the problem. These plans could not be required prior to issuance of grazing leases, however, since they are already in effect. Only future authorization could be made conditional on requirements of an activity plan.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Big Desert (4/80) Jeppesen

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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| Name (MFP) |
| Big Desert |
| Activity |
| Watershed |
| Overlay Reference |
| Step 1 W 3.2 Step 3 W 3.2 |

Recommendation:

Retain all public lands within the flood plains in public ownership.

Rationale:

The public lands involved which are in a flood plain cannot be disposed of because of Executive Order 11988 Flood Plain Management (as of May 25, 1977). This order states that BLM must retain these lands. Land in a flood plain that is disposed of and subsequently developed could be flooded and damaged requiring government assistance and subsidy for repair and reclamation.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept

Reasons:

Executive order 11988 Flood Plain Management

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 W 3.3 Step 3 W 3.3 |

Recommendation:

Reseed area shown as 2.2 and 3.4 within Flattop PL-566 watershed to reestablish watershed cover. Defer grazing in the area for a minimum of 3 years. See Watershed MFP I overlay.

Rationale:

Reseeding this area will result in badly needed ground cover to protect the area from water erosion. The standing vegetation will supply some retention of runoff which may help reduce flooding. The deferment is necessary to allow vegetation to become established.

Aberdeen residents are demanding that something be done to restore good vegetative cover to protect the upper watershed and reduce local flood problems.

Neglect of this responsibility will bring a great deal of hostility toward the BLM from Aberdeen and other small communities in the Big Desert Planning Unit such as Rockland, Pingree and Moreland.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

1. Do not reseed the area within T. 1 N., R. 33 E. of the Twin Buttes watershed.
2. Accept the recommendation on the rest of the area.

Reasons:

The area in T. 1 N., R. 33 E. is predominately state land. BLM cannot make expenditures on lands not within its jurisdiction. Flood control structures have been built in the area. Economic benefits of a 208 water quality management program is highly unlikely.

The remainder of the area is deficient of ground cover and is a source of runoff water which periodically floods the Aberdeen area. This area lacks perennial vegetative cover. Exact treatment area and method should be resolved on the ground.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)
Big Desert

Activity
Watershed

Overlay Reference
Step 1W 3.4 Step 3 W3.3

Local resident attitude and flooding hazard has been grossley over rated. South Bingham S.C.D. states the flooding problem originates primarily from fallowed farm ground.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

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Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Objective Number

W-4

Objective:

Reduce the accelerated erosion to a Soil Surface Rating (SSF) of 20 or less.

Rationale:

The control of erosion to preserve site productively and to maintain water and air quality is a basic tenant of watershed management. The specific SSF reduction objective was determined through the Watershed Phase I surveys and is deemed technically feasible realistic goal.

A high standard of erosion control is required by Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, PL 92-500. Additional responsibility is mandated by the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, which states the Secretary of the Interior shall, "provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including State and Federal air, water, noise, and other pollution standards or implementation plans." Other authorities are the Public Lands Administration Act PL 86-649, the Inter-governmental Cooperation Act PL 95-77, Water Quality Management Planning Regulations in 40 CFR parts 130-131, Executive Order 11752, and BLM Manual Watershed Management 7000.01-7000.07,

Big Desert (4/80) D, Jeppesen

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 W 4.1 Step 3 W 4.1 |

Recommendation:

Improve rangeland on 689,896 acres to good condition by implementing Allotment Management plans in the acreage. Range conditions to be judged by the criteria in the SCS Range Handbook, Section 305 Range Condition.

Rationale:

Rangeland in good condition will provide satisfactory soil protection with the prevailing climate and the site characteristics to meet the watershed SSF objectives. Watershed Phase I studies have determined that livestock management is the most practical means for achieving good range condition on the prescribed lands.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Supported by Range 1.1, 1.2.
No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept. Allotment management plans will include an intensive grazing management system, plans for development and a monitoring system.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 WSW 1.3 Step 3 WSW 1.3 |

Recommendation:

Maintain sanitary facilities on high recreation use areas.

Rationale:

Waste products, both human and trash, can and do enter the waterways during flood periods. In order to avoid water contamination, sanitary facilities and trash collections need to be established and monitored on a regular schedule during the summer months.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendations:

Reject.

Reasons:

This is not a high visitor use area and the need has not been demonstrated. BLM is a very minor land owner along the Snake River, having only some 2,000 acres. Much of this land is not accessible to the general public because access is controlled by surrounding private land owners. Visitor use is minimal and occurs primarily by boat. No mandate nor agency can control what waste products enter a waterway during flood periods.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
2. Code each recommendation to the specific objective for which it was prepared; i.e., Wildlife objective 1, Recommendation 3 would be W/L 1.3; Lands objective 4, Recommendation 2 would be L 4.2 etc.
3. Entries are made as described in BLM Manual Sections 1608.3 and 1608.4. See BLM Manual section 1608, Illustration 2 for a sample format of the headings and additional instructions.
4. Use additional sheets for each recommendation as necessary.
5. File recommendation sheets behind the sheet for the objective they are supporting (Form 1600-20) *Management Framework Plan - Step 1* in the MFP narrative.

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| Name (MFP) | Big Desert |
| Activity | Watershed |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 WSW 1.2 Step 3 WSW 1.2 |

Recommendation:

Limit livestock access to waterways on all lands adjacent to the Snake River.

Rationale:

Livestock are both a direct and indirect contributor to water pollution. Elimination of grazing along the waters edge and major seasonal drainages will reduce the coliform bacteria and sediment content of streams.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with RM 3.1 which authorizes livestock use of the omitted lands.

Supported by VRM 2.1 which says to eliminate streamside and backwater damage by livestock.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject Step 1 recommendation.

Consider deferring islands and omitted lands from livestock use until after high water flow to prevent entrapment and excessive use.

Reasons:

There is little or no streamside grazing damage along the Snake River. The stream bank has a vertical drop of three to five feet depending on water level and livestock access to the river is limited to gravel bars. Streamside erosion is due to the Snake River flow dynamics and is constantly changing. Livestock adjustments have been made both in length of season and turnout dates. See WLA 1.1.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Objective Number

WSW-1

Objective:

Control pollution sources on Public land.

Rationale:

The bureau is mandated by P.L. 92-500 to control water pollution.

*Reference Wildlife (aquatic) Overlays-URA

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Objective.
2. Under a heading "Objective," enter a concise quantified statement of the specific activity objective.
3. Under a heading "Rationale," enter a detailed statement fully covering all the reasons necessary to justify the proposed action in the objective. Also describe all anticipated positive and negative impacts. (See BLM Manual section 1608 for additional instructions)

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| Name (MFP) |
| Big Desert |
| Activity |
| Watershed |
| Overlay Reference |
| Step 1 W 4.4 Step 3W 4.3 |

Recommendation:

Seeding areas in poor range condition.

Rationale:

Seeding areas in poor range condition will expedite recovery of the vegetation cover. The improved cover will upgrade watershed protection and reduce erosion.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts apparent, although some may arise with wildlife in detailed planning.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept with the condition that other resources values be considered in project planning.

Reasons:

A seed source for perennial plants is lacking in many of these areas. Species adopted for reseeding on these dry sites are limited in numbers. Crested wheatgrass is one of the best adopted grasses. Several shrubs and forbs are being used in seed mixtures with only limited success.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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| Name (MFP) |
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| Watershed |
| Overlay Reference |
| Step 1 W 4.3 Step 3 W 4.2 |

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify - reseeding will be necessary where perennial plants are killed and no seed source exists, or where species diversity may need to be increased.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Watershed

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W 4.3 Step 3 W 4.2

Recommendation:

Allow for natural recovery after a burn by protecting the burn area from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons. Conduct viability testing of remaining vegetation to see if stand can reestablish itself.

Consider not reseeding for fire rehabilitation except in annual grass (cheat grass) areas where it is desirable to change to a perennial grass.

Rationale:

A no seeding recommendation is contrary to the usual fire rehabilitation plan; however, there are valid reasons for the recommendation:

1. When an area burns there is going to be some erosion, no matter what rehabilitation is done. In this area it will be mostly wind erosion during the first year.
2. Generally a grass understory is needed to carry a fire.
3. The grass will be damaged by the fire; but upon release from the brush competition and if protected from livestock use, the grass will quickly regain vigor and density. By the middle of the first growing season, the grass will usually have enough growth to control the erosion and will be fully recovered in two seasons.
4. Even with favorable growing conditions a rehabilitation seeding will not have enough density or volume to protect the soil until the end of the second season.
5. Frequently the soil will have crusted and stabilized before fire rehabilitation work can start. The seeding operations will further damage the already weakened plants and break the crust, opening the area to further erosion.
6. Even though there is erosion after a fire (for usually one season) subsequent improvement more than offsets the initial loss and damage.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

INSTRUCTIONS

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4. Use additional sheets for each recommendation as necessary.
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