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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Name (MFP) |
| Big Desert |
| Activity |
| Recreation - VRM |
| Overlay Reference |
| Step 1 VRM 1.2 Step 3 VRM 1.1 |

VRM 1.1

Recommendation:

All scenery units classified as VRM Class II shall be managed so that changes in the basic elements (line, form, color, and texture) should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. The Class II areas include:

| | <u>Acreage</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Wapi Lavas | 19,440 |
| 2. Craters of the Moon Lavas | |
| 3. Big Southern Butte | 9,960 |

Rationale:

The Class II designation results from the above areas exhibiting Class A, the highest quality scenery, or Class B, a scenery having high sensitivity levels and located in the foreground seen area. Class II designation allows changes in the basic elements only if they are not evident in the natural landscape.

Multiple Use Analysis

Conflicts with minerals M1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 which calls for leaving all areas open for locatable, leasable and saleable minerals.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Accept Step 1 recommendation.

Reasons

Mining claims have been staked on Big Southern Butte which could cause a change in the VRM Class.

Multiple Use Decision

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Recreation - VRM

Overlay Reference

Step 1 VRM 1 Step 3

Objective:

Manage the visual resources in the Big Desert planning unit in accordance with VRM Class designations as depicted on MFP Step 1 overlays.

Rationale:

This action is suggested by Section 8411.7 of the BLM Manual.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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| Activity | Recreation - VRM |
| Overlay Reference | Step 1 VRM 1.3 Step 3 VRM 1.2 |

VRM 1.2

Recommendation:

All scenery units classified as VRM Class III, shall be managed so that changes in the basic elements may be evident, but subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The Class III areas include:

| | <u>Acreage</u> |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Lava Plain | 1,233,000 |
| 2. Cedar Butte | 46,560 |
| 3. Agriculture | |
| Zone 1 | 60,000 |
| Zone 2 | 290,000 |

Rationale:

The Class III results from the above areas exhibiting Class B scenery, having high sensitivity or medium sensitivity in the foreground scene area, and Class C scenery having high sensitivity located in the foreground seen area.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflict with minerals recommendations M1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 which calls for leaving all areas open for locatable, leasable and saleable.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Accept Step I recommendation.

Reasons

This would provide adequate protection of the visual resource in the area.

Multiple Use Decision

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Name (MFP)

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Activity

Recreation - VRM

Overlay Reference

Step 1 VRM-2 Step 3

Objective:

Maintain and/or enhance the scenic quality of the Public Land contiguous to major travel routes and special recreation areas including: waterway corridors, recent lava flows, and unique or special management areas (i.e. China Cup Butte, Big Southern Butte).

Rationale:

These areas are generally zones of increased public sensitivity and, consequently, are most important in maintaining high visual quality.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Activity
Recreation - VRM

Overlay Reference
Step 1VRM2.11 Step 3VRM 2.1

VRM 2.1

Recommendation:

Eliminate spring and early summer grazing from all allotments along the Snake River to improve the diversity and seasonal longevity of the riparian vegetation and protect sensitive backwater stream banks.

Rationale:

By improving the diversity and seasonal longevity of the riparian vegetation the area will have a more natural appearance, soil and bank erosion will be reduced, and in some cases, more wildlife feed and cover will be available.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This conflicts with R 3.1, all 17 allotments along the Snake River are proposed to be grazed during the spring or the summer season.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

These lands are highly resilient to grazing due to a high regrowth rate, sub-irrigation and shading effect of high overstory. Elimination of spring and summer grazing would have the opposite effect desired on vegetation. This would diminish vegetative diversity rather than improve it. Damage to backwater stream banks is an unknown factor and should be considered for monitoring and correction if found necessary.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Recreation - VRM

Overlay Reference

Step 1 VRM 2.13 Step 3 VRM 2.2

VRM 2.2

Recommendation:

Allow no material or locatable mineral excavation along the Snake River.

Rationale:

See Rationale 2.18.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This conflicts with M2.1 and M3.1 which says leave the entire planning unit open to development of salable and locatable minerals.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

Do not allow material sales along the Snake River.
Manage any mining claim development under 3809 regs.

Reasons:

The prime value of these lands is for waterfowl habitat; mineral excavation would adversely impact these values. Adequate alternate material sites are available. Locatable minerals under the 1872 mining law allows development of claims. BLM authority is limited to surface protection and reclamation under 3809 regs.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept modified multiple use recommendation.

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Recreation - VRM

Overlay Reference

Step 1 VRM 2.1 Step 3 VRM 2.3

VRM 2.3

Recommendation:

Remove Big Butte fire lookout.

Rationale:

Removal of the lookout and subsequent recontouring of the area would remove the lookout's impact on form, line, color and texture. It would also put the Bureau in a better position to refuse the location of communication facilities on the butte.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with fire FM 1.3 which says continue to maintain a fire lookout on Big Southern Butte.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

The fire lookout is vital to district operations and the need for its continued operation overrides any visual intrusion it may or may not create. Approval for addition of commercial communication facilities on the butte will have to depend upon the merits of the proposal.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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Overlay Reference

Step VRM 2.16 Step 3 VRM 2.4

VRM 2.4

Recommendation:

Fire-fighting crews not be allowed to use heavy equipment in suppressing fires on China Cup Butte, Big Southern Butte and Hell's Half Acre.

Rationale:

Any heavy equipment operating in these areas would create severe visual impacts on the natural landscape. Form, line, color and texture would all be affected.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified, supported by fire FM 2.1

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Heavy equipment would cause more damage than a fire.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept the multiple use recommendation.

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| Overlay Reference | |
| Step 1 2.5 | Step 3 |

VRM 2.5

Recommendation:

Use only indigenous soil, rock, and vegetation in reclamation projects.

Rationale:

Indigenous materials must be used in reclaiming or getting projects to be less intrusive. To use other materials would create more noticeable disturbance.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify - Use indigenous species and materials if they are available and adqptable to the site.

Reason:

It is very difficult to restore things "just as they were" through reseeding. Succession may have been disrupted. Reseeding species such as crested wheat-grass and other exotics may be necessary to assure a vegetative cover.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept the multiple use recommendation.

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| Overlay Reference | Step 1 VRM 3.7 Step 3 VRM 2.6 |

VRM 2.6

Recommendation:

Do not allow any structural modification to Middle Butte.

Rationale:

There are no man-made intrusions on Middle Butte. Any intrusion would affect the area's natural contrast of line, color, form and texture.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject

Reasons:

Middle Butte is located on the INEL. There has been some interest in constructing a road to the top of Middle Butte and using it as a communication site. Alternate sites are presently available, however, and no proposals for development have been made. BLM has little or no management authority on Middle Butte.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept multiple use recommendation.

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