

RECREATION

RNAs, ONAs, or NNLs for the District

Acres

Medicine Lodge Resource Area

<u>RNAs</u>	North Menan Butte	340
	St. Anthony Sand Dunes (North Juniper)	1,780
	Game Creek	375
	Squaw Creek Island	25
	Pine Creek Island	25
	Reid Canal Island	22
		<u>2,567</u>
<u>NNLs</u>	North Menan Butte	1,120
	St. Anthony Sand Dunes (Recommended only!)	27,350
		<u>28,470</u>

Big Butte Resource Area

<u>RNAs</u>	China Cup Butte	<u>160</u>
<u>NNLs</u>	Great Rift Zone	193,000
	Hell's Half Acre	44,000
	Big Southern Butte	5,760
		<u>242,760</u>

Pocatello Resource Area

<u>RNA/ACEC</u>	Cheatbeck Canyon	100
	Dairy Hollow	45
	Formation Cave	70
	Oneida Narrows	617
	Pine Gap	232
	Robbers Roost Creek	400
	Travertine Park	30
		<u>1,494</u>

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert

Activity
Recreation

Overlay Reference
Step 1 R 1 Step 3

Objective:

Provide coordinated recreation management for some of the desert features which demonstrate volcanism on the eastern Snake River Plain. This should include access needs (roads and hiking trails), facility development needs, the signing program and visitor management services to assist users and protect resources.

Rationale:

Coordinated recreation management would tie together the Big Desert's volcanic features. The features offer unique and diverse recreation opportunities as recognized in the National Landmark designation for three of the areas (Hell's Half Acre, Big Southern Butte and the Great Rift*). Two of the lava flows are part of the Great Rift wilderness study area and one feature is a research natural area. Management plans will outline opportunities for present and future recreation needs and will discuss action needed for resource development and protection.

Support:

Coordination with NPS and Crystal Ice Cave management personnel. BLM (I-3) operations for facility development and survey work; administration for contracts for inventory data; DSC and ISO - Survey and Design (Landscape arch.).

*The Great Rift refers to several different features associated with the series of parallel cracks and fissures running from Craters of the Moon National Monument to the Wapi flow. One of the rift sets is known as the Great Rift set. The Crystal Ice Cave is located in Kings Bowl lava flow which is part of the 1,000 acre Great Rift National Landmark. The BLM-managed Craters of the Moon and Wapi flows are part of the Great Rift wilderness study area.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 V. Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 1.1 Step 3 R 1.1

Recommendation:

Manage and protect the recreation values of the following areas and in the following priority:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1. Big Southern Butte | 1982 |
| 2. Great Rift WSA | 1982 |
| 3. King's Bowl | 1983 |
| 4. Hell' Half Acre | 1983 |
| 5. Lava Tube Caves | 1984 |
| 6. Cerro Grande | 1984 |
| 7. China Cup Butte | 1984 |

Rationale:

Big Southern Butte has the most competing demands of all the areas with mining claims and drilling, communication facilities, a fire lookout, a hang gliding staging area, cultural sites, grazing, ORV use, wildlife habitat, isolated vegetative species, National Landmark status, and tremendous visual values. The Great Rift will be managed under interim wilderness management policy (IMP) until Congress makes a decision. However, IMP doesn't cover signing, personnel, and interpretive needs which will be critical to insure visitor safety and enjoyment on the lava flows. Crystal Ice Cave on the King's Bowl flow is presently managed by a private operator but BLM may have to choose whether to close it or take over operations. With thousands of visitors each year, we need to develop a contingency plan. Hell's Half Acre is located near the Idaho Falls population and is used for environmental education. BLM could easily expand the EE program and put together interpretive information. Hell's Half Acre is currently under wilderness IMP regulations. If both Hell's Half Acre and Cerro Grande are designated as WSA's, their management plans should be written together in 1983. Most of the district's caves receive a little use, but are protected by little-known and poorly signed desert roads. The caves represent an excellent recreation potential. China Cup Butte Research Natural Area needs a few protective measures but not a full-scale management plan.

Support:

Crystal Ice Cave concessioners, operations for sign needs, writer-editor for interpretive needs, administration for contracted graphics.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts.

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(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

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Step 1 R.1.1 Step 3 R.1.1

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept Step I recommendation with changes in priority as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Big Southern Butte | 1982 |
| 2. Great Rift WSA | 1984 or whenever Congress takes action |
| 3. Kings Bowl | 1983 |
| 4. Hell's Half Acre | 1983 |
| 5. Lava Tube Caves | 1984 |
| 6. Cerro Grande | 1984 or whenever Congress takes action |
| 7. China Cup Butte | 1982 |

Reasons:

The time frame changes are considered to more accurately reflect anticipated action by Congress on the need for protection and management of the areas.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 1.2 Step 3 R ~~4.2~~ 4.1

Recommendation:

Complete the following actions to provide resource protection and management of Big Southern Butte:

- A. If Amax Mining Co. relinquishes their claims, withdraw the Butte from further appropriation under mining and mineral leasing laws.
- B. Exchange public lands for the 1,360 acres of private land north of the Butte (T. 1 N., R. 29 E., Section 4, 5, 8, 9, 10) and the 640 acres of State land (T. 1 N., R. 29 E., Section 16). Consider a "non-development" agreement between the agencies and the landowner.
- C. Obtain an easement from DOE and private landowners across their land along the access road from Highway 20 (near Big Lost River Crossing) to Big Southern Butte.
- D. Relocate communication equipment on top of the Butte, other than that needed for fire control purposes, to other areas in the District. Do not allow installation of any communication or other equipment that would detract from the scenic, scientific or recreation values of the Butte.
- E. Improve the design of the scenic lookout at the top of the Butte for parking and turn-around area.
- F. Install interpretive signs at the summit.
- G. Improve the access road to the hang gliding site and maintain the warning sign.
- H. Designate Big Southern Butte as an ACEC.

Rationale:

- A. The National Landmark Status of the Butte does not protect the area from certain types of mineral exploration and development. Mining equipment may require road widening, rerouting, or new building. Existing roads, trails, and ORV scars already are visual problems with long-term implications. Further developments would detract from the scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Butte.
- B. Acquiring the private and State lands would consolidate public ownership of the lands around the Butte and would allow more efficient management of the unique recreational values of the area. Private developments in the shadow of the Butte could seriously detract from the overall quality of the recreation experience.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

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Overlay Reference

Step R-1.2 Step 3 R 1.1

Rationale - continued

C. Access from Highway 20 across Department of Energy land is the most direct route to Big Southern Butte from the north, east, or west. This route would also improve access to the Great Rift.

D. Most recreationists would probably perceive communication equipment as inappropriate to the setting, whereas fire look-outs, campgrounds, etc. are accepted or expected because of their traditional role in protecting natural resources and enhancing recreation experiences. Allowing existing communication equipment to stay on the Butte, after redesigning the facility, would be acceptable if there was a way to guarantee that additional facilities (buildings, antennas, etc.) would not be added over the next several decades. Removing the equipment would help prevent other entities (private and governmental) from using the leverage that BLM has equipment there and others should be allowed.

E. & F. The summit currently receives a considerable amount of use as a scenic lookout. It should be redesigned and equipped with interpretive devices to better accommodate visitor use.

Hang gliding is a legitimate use of the resources of Big Butte. The road to the staging area should be improved to prevent the continual widening of the existing jeep trail. This site on the west side of the Butte could be used as a sight-seeing vista as well as a hang gliding area.

- H. 1) Relevance - Big Southern Butte stands in splendid isolation, rising 2,500 feet above the surrounding low - relief basaltic plain, making it a geologic feature of national significance.
- 2) Importance - Big Southern Butte is a registered National Natural Landmark. In addition, the butte is the predominant landmark of the Big Desert.
- 3) Criticalness - An area may be found to be "critical" if the qualities that make it important are subject to change. Mining and communication sites could have significant impacts on the butte.
- 4) Protectability - The area is capable of being protected from damaging human activity. Designation would be a tool for us to use in negotiating with mining companies to mitigate potential impacts.

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Overlay Reference	Step 1 R 1.2 Step 3 R 1.2

Support:

(I-3) Lands for aquisition of land easements and withdrawals; communications for relocation of communication facilities; operations for improving and/or installing facilities and making easement agreements; landscape architect for site design.

Multiple Use Analysis:

- A. This recommendation conflicts with all minerals recommendations to leave all areas open for mineral leasing and development.
- B. No conflicts. Supported by Wilderness 1.2.
- C. DOE has stated that they want to maintain limited controlled access on the site.
- D. Conflicts with Lands recommendation L 3.1 and Fire Management recommendation 1.1. It is supported by VRM 2.3 which says to remove the fire lookout.
- E. No conflicts.
- F. No conflicts.
- G. No conflicts.
- H. Washington Office policy constraint.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Reject.
- B. Reject.
- C. Reject.
- D. Reject.
- E. Delete
- F. Delete
- G. Delete
- H. Reject.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert Recreaiton 5/80 Collins

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Step 1 R 1.2 Step 3 R ~~1.1~~

Reasons:

- A. Mining claims currently exist under the 1872 mining law. National policy is critical of any withdrawals being proposed.
- B. There has been no need demonstrated for acquisition of these lands.
- C. Access is being acquired over private land at Frenchmans Cabin, and DOE grants access by permission. Alternate routes do exist for access to Big Southern Butte.
- D. Commercial facilities will not be allowed. BLM and Fish and Game facilities will remain (See L 3.1)
- E. Not a land use decision.
- F. Not a land use decision.
- G. Not a land use decision.
- H. With the current use of the Butte for recreation, communications and mineral activity an ACEC designation would not provide the protection desired. Current instructions from BLM Washington Office discourage ACEC designation for this type feature. The Butte is a registered national natural landmark and has an ORV closure.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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Step 1 R-1.3 Step 3 R 1.3

Recommendation:

Complete the following actions to provide resource protection and management of the Kings Bowl.

- A. Substantially improve the part of North Pleasant Valley Road that crosses public land. The road provides access to Crystal Ice Cave.
- B. Work with the private concessionaire in updating the Crystal Ice Cave site development and operations plan.
- C. Develop a contingency plan for BLM to manage Crystal Ice Cave in case the operators go out of business.
- D. Designate King's Bowl Lava Flow as an ACEC.

Rationale:

BLM authorized the development of the commercial facilities at the site which has resulted in annual use of approximately 15,000 visitors. The site is of special significance (National Landmark) and will continue to attract a substantial number of visitors. We should recognize our responsibility by improving and maintaining that portion of the road which is on the public lands. Expenditure of public funds on improving the road would benefit the commercial operator, but it would also benefit the public directly. It is not reasonable to make the concession operator bear the majority of the development costs of a satisfactory road across the public land.

- B. BLM must have direct involvement with the commercial operator(s) of Crystal Ice Cave to ensure the site is being developed and operated in accordance with standards suitable for National Landmark. A periodically updated and approved development and operations plan is a good tool to ensure the needed supervisory control.
- C. The energy situation and poor road conditions may prevent a private concessionaire from making a profit. Another unsuccessful season may cause them to close the business. BLM should be prepared to purchase the improvements and keep the facility open with our own people with possible six months notice. The cave could be used as an interpretive center for the proposed Great Rift Wilderness as well as all the outstanding volcanic features of the Big Desert.

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Step 1 R-1.3 Step 3R 1.3

continued

D. The ACEC process is used to provide whatever special management is required to protect environmental resources which are unique and critical, i.e. fragile, sensitive or vulnerable to being damaged. For an area to qualify as an ACEC it must meet the following criteria:

1. Relevance - Crystal Ice Cave is a part of the longest, as well as the deepest, open volcanic rift on the North American Continent.
2. Importance - Crystal Ice Cave is a unique fissure cave 160 feet below the surface of the earth. It has been estimated that the ice formations could be between 1700 and 1800 years old.

In 1968 the Great Rift was designated as a National Natural Landmark. People from all parts of the world have visited this site.

3. Criticalness - A 1200 foot tunnel has been built which parallels the Great Rift. As a result, if vandals are able to break into the tunnel, irreparable damage could be done.
4. Protectability - Hopefully the site is capable of being protected. In the winter of 79-80, the cave was sealed and protected. During the summer months the cave could be open to the public, shown by interpreters, and protected by those same people who would live on site.

Support

(I-3) Landscape architect for site development plan; operations for road construction; administration for contracts for on-going maintenance of roads.

Multiple Use Analysis:

- A. No conflicts
- B. No conflicts.
- C. No conflicts.
- D. No conflicts.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

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Step 1 R 1.3 Step 3 R 1.3

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Modify recommendation - Provide correction and preventive maintenance of these roads on an annual basis. Continue \$2,000/year cooperative agreement to Power County for maintenance and upgrading.
- B. Delete
- C. Modify recommendation to read - If and when the concessionaire terminates operation of Crystal Ice Caves, consider the following alternatives in priority:
1. Lease to another concessionaire.
 2. BLM take over operation of the Cave.
 3. Close the cave from public use.
- D. Reject

Reasons:

This road receives heavy use and needs to be maintained. There is currently a cooperative agreement with Power County on maintenance.

- B. Land use decision not necessary to accomplish.
- C. A contingency plan with alternatives will provide a backup if the current concessionaire should give up the site.
- D. Commercial Development disqualifies Kings Bowl lava flow as a potential ACEC.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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GPO 836 - 084

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Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 1.4 Step 3 R 1.4

continued

E. While the edges of the flow are appropriate for developments and concentrated use, the interior is more suited for dispersed, primitive types of recreation. The majority of the place is being considered as a wilderness study area. Interim Management Policy requires that an inventory unit be managed so its wilderness values remain unimpaired.

Support:

Operations for developments and easements; lands for exchanges; YACC or contract for clean-up and maintenance; planning division for work on brochure and signs (writer-editor).

Multiple Use Analysis:----

- A. No conflicts.
- B. No conflicts.
- C. No conflicts.
- D. No conflicts.
- E. No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendations:

- A. Modify - eliminate 1985 time frame.
- B. Modify - change time frame to FY-1983.
- C. Accept.
- D. Modify - Seventeen Mile Cave is located on private land. If a need becomes evident to acquire the cave for public values, consider making an exchange with landowner (C. W. Mulhall) for agricultural trespass land he is farming under TUP or use other acquisition methods available.
- E. Modify - Manage for multiple use; selected areas on perimeter of flow remain open for lava material sales. Primitive ~~reaction~~ ^{recreation} will have management emphasis.

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Step 1 R-1.4 Step 3R 1.4

Recommendation

Complete the following actions to provide resource protection and management for the Hell's Half Acre lava flow.

- A. By 1985 exchange the State Lands within the flow for other public lands.
- B. Install the self-guiding trails at the I-15 rest area on Hell's Half Acre by 1981. Publish the trail brochure written during the summer of 1979 and make it available at the trail head.
- C. Improve the parking area and interpretive signs at Twenty-mile Rock on U. S. Highway 20. Develop a self-guiding trail.
- D. Negotiate a land exchange or easement with the owner of Seventeen-mile Cave. Sign the cave on U. S. Highway 20 and install an interpretive sign at the feature. Provide regular maintenance.
- E. Manage interior of the flow for its primitive recreation values.

Rationale

- A. Acquiring State land within the lava flow would consolidate public ownership and prevent the possibility that the State could develop access to their lands.
- B. Interpretive hiking trails would be beneficial for the established environmental educational use of the rest stops. Other rest area visitors often often hike a short way on the lava flow with no trail or trail brochure. A self-guiding trail would meet an identified need to provide information about lava landscape.
- C. Twenty-mile Rock is an excellent site to interpret the lava flow for east-west travellers since it is the point where Highway 20 is closest to the flow. The edge of the lava is littered with cans, broken glass, and a maze of vehicle trails. If BLM is going to have interpretive signs at the area we should also maintain a pleasing visual resource. The Highway Department sign has mis-spelled "pahoehoe" and the Boy Scout sign is not entirely correct or of professional quality.
- D. Seventeen-mile Cave is right at the edge of Highway 20 and is heavily visited. It could be managed best as a publicly-owned recreation feature. Litter and vandalism that occur there may result from lack of information about the cave's significance. An interpretive sign and regular maintenance may improve the use, appearance, and enjoyment of the cave.

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Step 1 R 1.4 Step 3 R 1.4

continued

Reasons:

- A. The State of Idaho has shown interest in blocking their lands and getting out of potential wilderness areas. The 1985 time frame is unrealistic.
- B. The trail is receiving increased use by tourists and school groups. Funding for trail does not look favorable in next couple of years.
- C. Uncontrolled use is occurring at the cave and past abuse needs to be corrected.
- D. Exchange would resolve a trespass situation and provide a method to acquire the cave if public need arises.
- E. Additional uses other than just primitive recreation currently occur around the lavas. Multiple use would insure the uses continue.
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Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
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Overlay Reference
Step 1R 1.5 Step 3 R 1.5

Recommendation:

Protect and manage Volcanna Mountain Cave, Government cave and Seventeen Mile Cave.

Rationale:

Very little information is available on the caves, but they are important for their wildlife habitat, recreation and archaeological values. Contracts may be the best way to get some of the data.

The three caves have been extensively visited. Signs will make them easier to find and provide an opportunity for education and safety warnings.

By signing the caves, BLM takes on the further responsibility of keeping them in good condition for public use. Litter and graffiti pose safety and visual problems.

Heavily visited caves have very little wildlife, but most lava tubes in the desert are remote and lightly used. They may have resident bat, invertebrate, and other wildlife populations that require study before management plans are developed. In particular, hibernating bats may need protection from disturbances during a part of the year.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept the recommendation for Volcanna Mountain and Government Caves.

Reject the recommendation for Seventeen Mile Cave.

Reasons:

Seventeen-mile Cave is located on private land.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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Step 1R 1.6 Step 3R 1.6

Recommendation:

Provide resource protection and management of the Cerro Grande (Cedar Butte) lava flow. Include the following actions in a protection plan.

- A. Cerro Grande is not designated a wilderness then designate it as a primitive recreation area.
- B. Find an alternate site for the community pit if use begins to impair wilderness characteristics.
- C. Remove the mining claims in Section 5 and 6, T. 31 E., R. 1 S. The miners filed claim for lava rock and their actions may affect wilderness characteristics.

Rationale:

- A. The area's interior is best suited for non-development activities.
- B. Continued or increased use could cause enough damage to impair wilderness characteristics. Use should be ended while wilderness studies are on-going. A new location could offer better accessibility for population centers.
- C. The mining claims are due east of the community pit. If the miners decide to remove rock, they would have to build a road into the sections. Until the Black Butte court case in Shoshone is settled, BLM may have a difficult time preventing rock removal. Impairment to wilderness characteristics could easily occur.

Support:

Lands for State exchanges, and minerals for community pit relocation.

Multiple Use Analysis:

A, B and C conflict with minerals recommendations 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 which call for leaving the entire area open to leasable, locatable and saleable minerals materials.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Step 1R 1.6 Step 3 R 1.6

continued

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Reject - Manage under multiple use if not designated wilderness.
- B. Accept Step I Recommendation.
- C. Modify - initiate an injunction and a validity determination.

Reasons:

- A. Few interesting or prominent features exist on this flow other than Cedar Butte
- B. Continued use of the cinder pit could impair wilderness values if use continues. Other sites are available for that use.
- C. A validity determination is planned in the FY-1982 AWP.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 V. Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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Overlay Reference
Step 1R 1.7 Step 3 R 1.7

Recommendation:

Accomplish the following actions for China Cup Butte:

- A. China Cup should be included in a signing program and in any interpretive information discussing volcanic features of the Desert.
- B. Do not allow any environmental modification within the withdrawal unless required for scientific research. Closely monitor any such research to minimize and mitigate disturbances.
- C. If ORV or other problems develop, fence off the Butte from the southern access road.
- D. Designate as an ACEC.

Rationale:

A - C - The Butte was withdrawn for its unique natural values in 1965 and should be managed to provide full protection for these values.

D. ACEC designation is appropriate for the following reasons:

- 1) Relevance - The feature is an almost perfectly circular tephra or scoria cone 1,260 feet in diameter and 100 feet deep in the crater.
- 2) Importance - China Cup has had a withdrawal from mineral and agricultural entry, public sale, State exchange or State selection since 1965. It is a Research Natural Area.
- 3) Criticalness - The steep slopes and soils of the feature are easily eroded by vehicle tracks. An existing ORV scar has suffered erosion problems.
- 4) Protectability - ORV closure and/or fencing could protect the Butte from further damage. Refer also to ORV closures, R 5.2.

Support:

Operations for installation of signs and fence.

INSTRUCTIONS

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Step 1 R-1.7 Step 3R 1.7

continued

Multiple Use Analysis:

- A. No conflicts.
- B. No conflicts.
- C. No conflicts. Supported by R-5.2 ORV closure.
- D. No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Accept.
- B. Accept.
- C. Modify - The entire butte may require fencing due to the nature of the surrounding topography.
- D. Reject - China Cup currently is withdrawn from mineral and agricultural entry, public sale, State exchange or State selection. It is designated a Research Natural Area.

Reasons:

- A, B and C - China Cup's unique features need to be protected from destruction and interpreted to further public education potential.
- D. China Cup currently is withdrawn from mineral and agricultural entry, public sale, State exchange or State selection. The existing designations and land use plan decisions should provide adequate protection.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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Overlay Reference
Step 1 VRM 2.14 Step 3 R 1.8

VRM 2.14

Recommendation:

Withdraw China Cup Butte, the Wapi lavas, Hell's Half Acre, Craters of the Moon flow, and Big Southern Butte from mineral entry.

Rationale:

See Rationale 2.18.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with M 2.1 and 3.1 - Leave entire planning unit open to development of salable and locatable minerals.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

China Cup Butte already has a 160 acre mineral entry withdrawal from appropriation under the 1872 mining law. Wapi and Craters of the Moon lava's are currently under consideration for wilderness designation. A final determination would be made as timely as a withdrawal could be processed. Hell's Half Acre is a wilderness study area and covered under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review BLM Dec. 12, 1979. Big Southern Butte is already entirely blanketed with mining claims.

The values of these areas can also be protected under 3809 regulations.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-2

Objective

Manage all the water-based shoreline public lands in the planning unit for recreation and related wildlife habitat values.

Rationale

The omitted lands along the Snake River and the public lands along the Big Lost River and other streams in the Arco area are generally located near the population centers. They offer scenic variation to the surrounding agricultural and desert lands and provide a diversity of water and land-based recreation opportunities. Of the 2.2 million acres of land in the unit, less than 4,000* acres of public land exist along the Snake River and Big Lost River. Visitor use has been concentrated on this water-based public land and it will be subject to increasing recreational use pressures as more private lands are developed and/or closed to public use. Management of land for its recreation and related wildlife values will help to provide protection of the resources and development of opportunities for present and future recreation needs.

*Approximately 3,000 acres of omitted lands, 200 acres along the northern portion of the Big Lost, and 500 acres along the southern portion of the Big Lost. Acreage for southern portion of the Big Lost figures are based on a 200 yard corridor along 6 miles of the river crossing public land.

INSTRUCTIONS

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Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-2.1 Step 3 R 2.1

Recommendation:

Accomplish the following actions on the lands along the Snake River and Big Lost River:

- A. Retain all of the public lands fronting on the Big Lost River in public ownership and manage for their recreation values. Manage the omitted lands in public ownership for their recreation and wildlife habitat values.
- B. Withdraw the remaining "omitted lands" and a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile corridor of public lands fronting the lower portion of the Big Lost River from entry under the mining and mineral leasing laws by 1985.
- C. Sign parcels of undeveloped public land along the Snake River (where it contacts major access routes) so that the public will know these lands are available for recreation users. Accomplish this action by 1982.
- D. Oppose construction of any water regulating devices on the southern portion of Big Lost River that would significantly alter the characteristics of the river in this area.
- E. Restrict livestock grazing on the omitted lands along the Snake River according to wildlife requirements. See R. 3.1.
- F. Conduct a recreation inventory of the "omitted lands" and develop and initiate a recreation management plan. The plan would address such items as: types and locations of developed facilities needed, complete access needs and visitor management services required.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Step 1 R-2.1 Step 3 R 2.1

Rationale

- A. The limited amount of public lands on the major waterways in the unit are extremely valuable for recreation purposes. Visitor use of these lands will continue to increase. Management of their recreational and related wildlife habitat values will help provide resource protection and development of recreational opportunities. General BLM land disposal policy supports retaining shoreline lands for public use.
- B. FLPMA does not give BLM the authority to protect these lands from certain types of mineral entry. Mineral exploration and development would not be compatible with recreation and wildlife values of these areas. A review of all withdrawals is scheduled within the next two years and it is important these existing withdrawals remain in effect.
- C. It is difficult or impossible to tell where the public land is located in these areas. A signing program would make these sites available for more recreation use.
- D. Carey Act applications on lands near the southern portion of the Big Lost River could possibly result in agricultural reclamation activities requiring a stabilized source of water from the Big Lost River. Attempts....to alter the characteristics of the river should be opposed, because of the scenic qualities of the canyon and the existing recreation opportunities.
- E. Livestock use of these prime recreation lands is lowering the overall quality of the recreation experience because of loss of wildlife habitat. In some places, trampling of vegetation creates an adverse visual impact. Livestock use of camping and picnicking sites is not compatible with that type of recreation use.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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Step 1 R-2.1 Step 3R 2.1

continued

- F. A management plan would be an important "first step" to ensure the coordinated development and management of the recreation resources. There is a lack of detailed information on recreation use problems and opportunities on these valuable lands. A management plan on this portion of the Snake would tie into future management plans needed for the South Fork of the Snake and the Henry's Fork of the Snake. It would offer BLM a chance to fully coordinate our recreation program with other governmental agencies involved.

Support

Lands for acquisition and withdrawal; minerals for negotiating with Highway Department for new material site; range for imposing grazing restrictions; operations for facility development and maintenance.

Multiple Use Analysis:

- A. The management recommendation conflicts with range, minerals, forestry and wildlife recommendations for the area.
- B. Conflicts with minerals M-1.1, 2.1 and 3.1.
- C. No conflicts.
- D. No conflicts.
- E. Conflicts with Range 3.1 which calls for these lands to be grazed.
- F. No conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Accept with modification - The lands fronting on the Big Lost River and the omitted lands will be managed for multiple use, except forestry and minerals, with emphasis on wildlife habitat.
- B. Accept with modification - Withdraw from saleable minerals only. Leasable is discretionary and controllable.
- C. Reject.
- D. Delete.

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Step 1 R 2.1 Step 3 R 2.1

continued

E. Accept with modification - Stocking rates will be in accordance with the 1979 SVIM inventory.

F. Delete.

Reasons:

A. Under current Bureau policy and FLPMA, public lands will be retained unless it is in the best public interest to dispose of the.

B. Riparian values need to be protected from disturbance along both of these streams. Leasable minerals are discretionary and controllable. Locatable minerals are manageable under 3809 regulations.

C. Access is not available over private lands.

D. Not a land use Decision.

E. Livestock grazing is essential to the management of the omitted lands along the Snake River.

F. Not a land use decision.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation on A, C, D, E, and F.

Reject B.

Reasons:

B. Sale of mineral materials is a discretionary action, withdrawal is not necessary. No sales will be made on omitted lands.

C. Where access exists, it should be made known to the user public. Post signs at these locations

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Big Desert

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Recreation

Objective Number

R-3

Objective:

Develop adequate day use and overnight facilities at existing concentrated use areas to increase recreational use opportunities. Provide adequate environmental safeguards for an estimated increase in visitation of 100% by the year 2000.

Rationale:

Certain areas within the unit are subject to visitor use that is creating some environmental and health and safety problems. Appropriate levels of recreation development in these areas could mitigate resource and sanitation problems while enhancing the quality of recreation activities.

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Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-3.1 Step 3R 3.1

Recommendation

By 1982 establish a public campground and picnic area in T. 1 S., R. 36 E., Section 26, Firth river bottoms. Develop, operate and maintain the sites with public funds. Site development and operation plan should include:

1. potable water source
2. improve all-weather access roads
3. stabilize and improve shoreline area
4. elimination of livestock grazing, and ORV use (except on designated roads and trails)
5. site supervision and reliable maintenance program
6. withdrawal from appropriation under mining laws

Rationale

The Firth river bottoms have been and will continue to be used for outdoor recreation activities, especially ORVs, camping and picnicking.

Facility development and site management is needed to mitigate existing health, safety and environmental problems and to enhance the quality of the recreation experience. BLM is probably in the best position to undertake the development of this site. However, if we do not develop the site, it should be leased under R&PP to a responsible government agency for development. Grazing and mining are incompatible with recreation values.

Support

Operations and landscape architect for site development, range for grazing restrictions; minerals; lands for access and withdrawals; administration for maintenance contracts and cooperative agreements. Coordination with local law enforcement agencies and State Parks Department Fire Protection.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This conflicts with minerals development recommendations M-1.1, M-2.1, and M-3.1.

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Step 1 R 3.1 Step 3 R 3.1

continued

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept - Development will occur when recreation demand warrants.

Reasons:

Current use of the area is causing safety, health and environmental problems. Vandalism is a big problem at the site. The Bingham County Commissioners are in favor of this development if BLM will do it and manage it.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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Name (MFP)

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Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-3.2 Step 3 R 3.2

Recommendation

Establish and manage sportsman access sites, with minimum facilities, at T. 3 N., R. 27 E., Sec. 27, Box Canyon on the Big Lost. Accomplish by 1985. Develop and operation should include:

1. Minimum sanitation facilities.
2. Improved access roads and signing.
3. Elimination of grazing and withdrawal from mineral entry.
4. Site supervision and reliable maintenance program.

Rationale

This site is important for its water-based recreation values, and is currently being used by sportsmen. Minimum development would help to protect environmental values while increasing recreation use opportunities.

Support

Operations and landscape architect for site development, maintenance and easements; range for grazing restrictions; minerals lands for withdrawals; and administration for contracts for law enforcement and maintenance. Coordination with local law enforcement agencies and State Parks Department Fire Protection.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts have been identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

During our planning meeting with the Butte County Commissioners, they expressed the opinion that current access is adequate and that the demand is not present.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

(Instructions on reverse)

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3.1

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-4

Objective

Provide for continued and expanded use of the public lands for ORV use.

Rationale

In addition to ORV activity being a legitimate recreation use in its own right, ORVs are often used in support of such activities as hunting, fishing, sightseeing and collecting. This objective would help to open up the public lands for recreation use. Conflict with policies to provide resource protection for special management areas could result.

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

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INSTRUCTIONS

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 4.1 Step 3 R 4.1

Recommendation:

Provide for ORV use by accomplishing the following:

- A. Establish a competitive ORV race area in the vicinity of Coffee Point. Start this action in 1981.
- B. Establish the Snake River Plain National Recreation Trail primarily for ORV use.

Rationale:

- A. Competitive ORV use is more likely to result in resource damage than casual use, therefore, specially designated "play areas" will help to reduce overall damage. The course in the Coffee Point area has been used in previous years with a minimum amount of conflicts with other resources.
- B. The Magic Valley Trail Machine Association has requested a specially designated trail for ORV use. They plan to work with other ORV groups in Pocatello and Idaho Falls to generate more interest as well as support for the necessary planning and field work. The Association has volunteered their time and labor for this effort. Shoshone District has received money for a temporary employee under BLM's National Recreation Trails program and intends the Snake River Plain NRT to be the employee's primary responsibility.

Support:

Operations for any work at Coffee Point.

Multiple Use Analysis:

A conflict would arise with range management if ORV races were held at the same time livestock were present in the area. The conflicts have been identified with the designation of the Snake River Plain National Recreation Trail.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

- A. Reject recommendation A.
- B. Accept with modifications - Establish the Snake River Plain National Recreation Trail but place no restriction on vehicle type.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
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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.

GPO 836-084

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

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Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 4.1 Step 3 R 4.1

continued

Reasons:

Public interest for ORV events have been expressed but demand is small. Races over existing roads is more likely than ORV races. Much of the desert is old lava flow area and cross country travel by vehicle is nearly impossible.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 R 4.2 Step 3 R 4.2

Recommendation:

Close the following areas to ORV use:

- A. China Cup Butte Research Natural Area (160 acres)
- B. Cedar Butte
- C. Saddle Butte
- D. Big Southern Butte

Limit ORV use to existing roads and trails in the following areas:

- E. Quaking Aspen Butte
- F. Areas where the slope is greater than 15% and where soil association 8 occurs.
- G. Allow ORV use on all public lands which are not closed or restricted.

Rationale:

- A. China Cup has steep slopes and has already suffered ORV damage and resulting erosion. The area was withdrawn in 1965 for its natural values. These are best protected by no vehicle use.
- B. Cedar Butte also has steep slopes and ORV damage. The slopes are so steep that an ORV operator is in danger of rolling.
- C. Cultural values on Saddle Butte are best protected by restricting access.
- D. ORV closure exists on Big Southern Butte, this should continue.
- E. Steep slopes, erodable soils, and cultural values call for restrictions on Quaking Aspen.
- F. The soils scientist made this recommendation due to erodability factors. BLM will have to map out the areas and decide if posting and publishing restrictions is appropriate. Refer to soils overlay.
- G. All public lands must be designated as open, restricted, or closed for ORV use. Use is restricted to existing roads and trails on Big Southern Butte.

Support:

Operations for signs, public information for media releases, soils for maps of 15% slope areas and soil association 8 areas.

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GPO 836-084

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R-4.2 = Step 3R 4.2

continued

Multiple Use Analysis:

A conflict exists between parts A - E of this recommendation and minerals recommendations M-1.1, M-2.1 and M-3.1. These recommendations call for leaving the entire area open to mineral exploration.

Multiple Use Recommendation:-

Accept Step I recommendations.

Reasons:

ORV closures and restrictions are necessary to protect natural and cultural values and to prevent erosion from occurring on steep slopes.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Overlay Reference

Step 1 R 5.2 Step 3 R 5.2

Recommendation:

Prepare a district recreation map and brochure by 1982.

Rationale:

To take advantage of recreation opportunities the public must know what they are, where they are, and how to get there. Topographic and planimetric maps give the most accurate picture of the desert and district, but these are not widely distributed, readily available, or easily interpreted. We receive inquiries about recreation opportunities, but have no printed literature to distribute. Other agencies and the BLM in other states provide such maps; people assume we also have them.

Support:

Contract graphic work.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts have been identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

Not a land use decision. Can be done through annual work planning. Time frame is modified due to limited funding outlook.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Recreation
Overlay Reference	Step 1 R 5.1 Step 3 R 5.1

Recommendation:

Acquire legal access to the following blocks of land by 1985.

A. Omitted lands - ensure that legal overland access is available to the following blocks of land: T. 1 S., R 36 E., Section 26; T. 2 S., R. 36 E., Section 9; T. 3 S., R. 34 E., Section 12, 13, 14, 21; T. 3 S., R. 35 E., Section 7.

Rationale:

Legal public access is needed in these areas to ensure that these valuable lands are available for a diversity of recreation uses.

Support:

Lands and operations for easement acquisition.

Multiple Use Analysis:

A. Wildlife has been identified as the most valuable resource on the omitted lands and all other resources would be managed accordingly. Minerals, Forestry and Wildlife Aquatics have also recommended access into the tracts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

Wildlife habitat has been identified as the principle value of the omitted lands, and access would reduce and impair those values.

The Bingham County Commissioners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Fish and Game have stated that current limited access is adequate and that omitted lands should be managed as wildlife habitat (waterfowl).

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-5

Objective

Develop and maintain adequate access to important recreation use areas through easement acquisition, road maintenance and signing. Inform the public of these areas through a recreation map and brochure.

Rationale

In order to maximize recreational opportunities and distribute use, it is important that adequate access be developed and maintained to recreation areas throughout the planning unit.

Because of the vast open spaces and the often confusing network of improved and unimproved roads found within the planning area, it is important to provide visitors with some directional orientation. Signing and a recreation brochure would highlight access routes, landmarks and potentially hazardous areas.

Big Desert Recreation 5/80 Collins

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-20 (April 1975)

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)